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ARAB TIMES

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Hair-raising protest
A protester against the ARMX weapons technology show carries his message on the spikes of his hair in Ottawa, Canada on Monday. The ARMX exhibition opens today. (Reuter wirephoto)

Belgian kidnapped Kuwaiti

NORTHAMPTON, England, May 23, (Reuter): A Belgian diamond dealer used his girlfriend and his brother-in-law to help kidnap a Kuwaiti businessman in an attempt to recover an alleged \$2.5 million debt, a court here heard yesterday.

William Schroyens was said to have decided on the kidnapping after failing to get the money which he alleged Waheed Al Humaidh owed him from various diamond deals.

Humaidh, 38, was snatched from a house near Northampton in central England last September and held hostage in South London for five days before he was released by police.

The prosecution said Schroyens recruited his girlfriend Danielle Peumans and his brother-in-law Eddie Doucet to kidnap the businessman for ransom.

Peumans, 42, from Brussels, and Doucet, 31, an Antwerp diamond dealer, have admitted kidnapping Humaidh. But they denied plotting to demand money with menaces.

The prosecution lawyer said (Continued on Page 7, Col 3)

'Let Marcos return to unite Philippines'

Imelda pleads

MANILA, May 23, (AP): Imelda Marcos said today she had sent a letter asking President Corason Aquino to allow her husband, Ferdinand Marcos, to return home to unite the country and ensure its survival.

Imelda made the statement in an interview broadcast over Manila radio station DZRH. She said she sent the letter Friday, when the deposed ruler underwent emergency kidney surgery after suffering renal, cardiac and pulmonary failure.

Marcos remained in critical condition today in a hospital in Honolulu, where he has lived since he was ousted in a popular uprising three years ago.

Imelda said she also sent a courier, an American lawyer, to Manila to personally deliver another copy to Aquino, but her emissary failed to meet the President.

"We see an urgent need for unity and understanding among the Filipino people, for beyond my personal sufferings and Ferdinand's dying wish is my deep concern for our country's survival as we see religious, political and economic factions in confrontation with one another," Imelda said in the letter.

She said Marcos' dying wish to come home could "be the answer to heal the deepening divisions among our people, and reconciliation must begin between you, Aquino, and I." Imelda then thanked Aquino for offering prayers for Marcos' recovery.

Aquino said yesterday her government was not strong enough to risk Marcos' return, and officials could not even be sure his funeral would not lead to trouble.

Aquino met yesterday with her cabinet crisis committee to review the Marcos issue. Afterward, officials said the ban on Marcos—dead or alive—would continue. But national security adviser Rafael Ilo told reporters there was a chance the government might reconsider its ban on a Marcos funeral in the Philippines.

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Dreams shattered

Maids tortured

KUWAIT, May 23, (AP): Alice, a 23-year-old Filipina, suffered eight months of beatings as the maid of an Arab family that have shattered her dream of a better life in the Gulf.

"When I came here, they told me I had a beautiful smile," she said in an interview from her hospital bed where she lay with a broken jaw, fractured elbows and a leg broken in three places.

"All my teeth were nice. Now they're all broken... I lost everything here," she said, asking that her full name not be used.

Alice managed to escape from her employers, who had locked her up. But some of the hundreds of thousands of mainly Filipina, Sri Lankan and Indian women who come to the Gulf are not so lucky.

They are lured by unscrupulous recruiting agents with promises of high pay and an escape from poverty in their homelands.

Instead, they are paid between \$100-200 a month and many find themselves trapped in a nightmare world of fear, deprivation, sexual harassment, abuse—and sometimes murder.

(Continued on Page 7, Col 3)

Kuwait wants to stabilise oil prices

CARACAS, May 23, (Reuter): Kuwait favours stabilising world oil prices at current levels to assure long-term demand, Kuwait Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa said yesterday.

In Venezuela on a two-day official visit, Sheikh Ali told reporters Kuwait does not favour a price increase at this time.

"We don't want to reduce prices, but we don't want prices to increase. Not because we don't want the additional revenue—we all need every additional dollar we can get our hands on," he said after meeting with officials of the state oil company Petroleos de Venezuela, SA (PDVSA).

"But we want something that can be continued well into the future, and this can only be done through stable prices that would encourage demand," he said.

He said that, in his opinion, prices should remain "at the current level."

Asked if this could mean an increase in production quotas by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Sheikh Ali said: "I think we will be discussing that in Vienna, and it would be unwise to pre-empt our discussions there."

North Sea Brent, a world marker crude, fell below \$17 a barrel for July loading, down from more than \$20 per barrel in April.

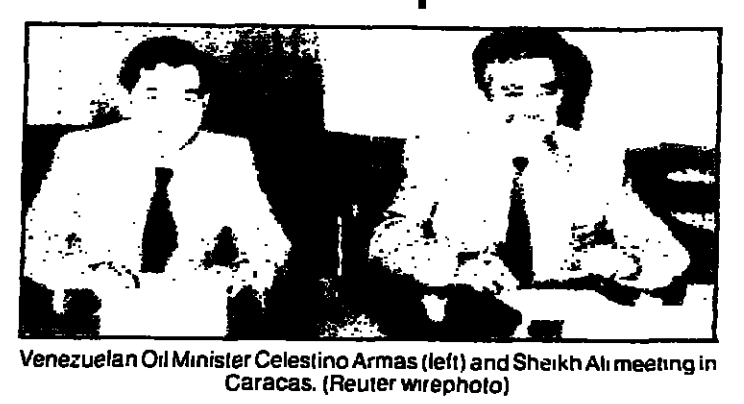
Sheikh Ali who arrived in Caracas on Sunday, told reporters he had invited PDVSA president Juan Chacin to visit Kuwait before the end of the year to explore ways in which PDVSA could co-operate with Kuwait.

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Venezuelan Oil Minister Celestino Armas (left) and Sheikh Ali meeting in Caracas. (Reuter wirephoto)

Khomeini satisfactory after major surgery

NICOSIA, May 23, (AP): Ayatollah Khomeini was in a satisfactory condition today after surgery to stop internal bleeding in his digestive tract, Iran's official media reported.

But Ayatollah Mehdi Rouhani, a prominent figure in the Iranian exile community in Western Europe, told the Associated Press in Paris he had information that Khomeini had "lost a great deal of blood" and was in "precarious" condition.

Rouhani would not say who his sources were or provide details.

Khomeini was in "very good condition" after the surgery, his son Ahmad said.

Ahmad told Tehran Radio several hours after the operation was disclosed: "There is nothing for the people to worry about."

The 89-year-old Khomeini's previously unreported illness threw the question of who will govern Iran after his death into sharp focus.

The office of the imam, as Iran's supreme political and religious leader is called, issued a brief statement announcing Khomeini's intestinal operation.

The statement, carried on Tehran Radio and the official Islamic Republic News Agency which were monitored in Nicosia, provided few details.

IRNA said it was not known where the operation was performed, suggesting the medical problem came on suddenly and required prompt attention.

The statement from Khomeini's office said in part: "The operation on Imam Khomeini, which was undertaken this morning to stop bleeding in his digestive system, was successfully completed, and praise the Lord, his condition is completely satisfactory."

Khomeini has been reported to be ailing since he suffered a heart attack three years ago. One unconfirmed report late last year said he had prostate cancer.

The Iranian leader, whose Islamic revolution toppled the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi in February 1979, has rarely been seen outside his heavily guarded home in the north Tehran suburb of Jamaran since then, fueling speculation that he was on the verge of death.

He was last shown speaking on television in taped excerpts from a February meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, the first audience he has granted to a foreign leader in years.

■ The father of Montazeri died today and was buried in his hometown, IRNA said.

■ Iran's Parliament today voted to merge two ministries which provide logistical support for the regular Army and the Revolutionary Guards.

■ Iran today released 49 Iraqi prisoners of war who were flown to Baghdad aboard a plane chartered by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the ICRC announced.

Leave Lebanon, PLO alone: Egypt

Khaddafi arrives, threatens walkout

CASABLANCA, May 23, (Agencies): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak quickly assumed the leadership of Arab moderates before the opening of an emergency summit today crowning Cairo's return to the Arab fold after a 10-year break.

Mubarak and his principal aides launched into polite but firm criticism of radical Syria over its role in Lebanon and its opposition to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat—two main issues at the summit.

"The balance of power between Arabs has changed 100 per cent with yesterday's arrival of Mubarak," said PLO spokesman Ahmed Abdelrahman.

Eighteen heads of state from the 22-member group have arrived for the summit expected to open at about 1800 GMT, making it possibly the best attended Arab summit in many years.

Assad and his radical ally Muammar Khaddafi of Libya were among the last to arrive in Morocco's spruced-up commercial capital for the summit called by Moroccan King Hassan to rally Arab support behind Arafat.

Khaddafi warned overnight he would lead a walkout from the summit if there was any move towards recognising Israel or harming the Arab cause.

Delegates said the summit was expected to achieve little of substance, although it might be able to gloss over differences between the moderate, pro-Western camp and the increasingly isolated radicals.

"This is the conference marking Egypt's return," said a senior Egyptian official who declined to be identified.

"There is no other purpose. Any resolutions, decisions or discussions are largely irrelevant," he added.

As Assad arrived in Casablanca shortly before the summit opening, Mubarak told Arab leaders who flocked to a luxury villa set aside for him by King Hassan that Syria must withdraw its 40,000 troops from Lebanon.

His top aide, Osama Al Baz, said yesterday Mubarak would not compromise on this issue.

He also said Egypt spoke for a majority of Arabs when it gave full backing to PLO leader Yasser Arafat's new strategy seeking to establish an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Buoyed by a Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation now in its 18th month, Arafat has largely turned previously hostile world public opinion in favour of the Palestinians.

Baz said Syria had every right to disagree with Arafat's policies but the last word on the Palestinian issue must remain with the Palestinians.

Mubarak said he favoured inviting Lebanon's rival leaders, Christian Army commander Michel Aoun and Sunni Muslim acting Prime Minister Selim Hoss, to address the summit separately.

Delegates said a majority of Arab states favoured sending a strong peace-keeping force to replace Syrian troops in Lebanon, or at least in and around Beirut.

(Continued on Page 5)



Workers prepare to put a drape over the portrait of the late Chairman Mao Tse-tung on the Gate of Heavenly Peace. Three people splattered paint on the portrait. Student protest leaders disclaimed any responsibility for the incident. (Reuter wirephoto)

Million demand Li's resignation

Zhao 'returns' to work

BEIJING, May 23, (Agencies): A million people streamed through the streets of Beijing today to demand the resignation of Premier Li Peng and condemn his declaration of martial law in the Chinese capital.

And the Chinese leaders huddled in secret today to debate withdrawing troops from around Beijing.

The demonstration, led by students, teachers, government employees and intellectuals, was the largest show of public wrath toward Li since martial law was imposed Saturday to quell a student-led campaign for democratic reforms.

"Li Peng step down," the crowds chanted as they marched past Tiananmen Square, where tens of thousands of students have maintained a 10-day vigil for a freer and less corrupt society.

"People unite and break the militaristic coup," one poster said.

"Bury the cult of the individual. End old people's politics," said another, in apparent reference to senior leader Deng Xiaoping, 84.

The march came amid increasing speculation that Li would be forced from office for refusing to hold talks with the students and resorting to military force to end their movement.

Hong Kong commercial radio reported that China's politburo, the Communist Party's top decision-making body, decided today to strip the 60-year-old former electrical engineer of both his government and party posts.

(Continued on Page 9)

Lebanese accuse Canada of trickery over immigration

MONTREAL, May 23, (KUNA): Canada is under attack as Lebanese victims of the civil war accuse this country of tricking them and lying to them about the possibilities of coming to live here.

In a front-page story in the Montreal Gazette this weekend, angry Lebanese talked about being victimised by the Canadian immigration system. It is a system, they say, that has made many promises but has not delivered on those promises.

According to the Canadian government, more than 300 Lebanese arrive in Cyprus every day and 90 per cent of them want to come to Montreal.

But only those with relatives in Canada are being admitted with little difficulty. The others are forced to wait in hotel rooms—sometimes as long as one month. Many brave the dangers and return to Beirut.

The chaos began when a Canadian immigration officer stationed in Israel gave a radio interview which was broadcast in Lebanon.

Gary McDonald explained that the Canadian government would accept those who had relatives in Canada.

That statement gave hope to hundreds of Lebanese who figured that if they could get to Cyprus, they would eventually find their way to Canada and a peaceful existence.

But many of the relatives who are living in Canada are not bona fide residents. Some are awaiting refugee status themselves. So not everyone is automatically eligible to enter this country.

NEWSWATCH

Landing into jail
A MAN who stayed 10 years away from Kuwait, returned through Kuwait International Airport to find security men waiting for him because of a crime he had committed a long time back.

According to investigations, the accused had entered the country 10 years ago with a forged passport and under a false name. He then worked at one of the government establishments for some time with the same forged passport and residence permit. The culprit tried to enter Kuwait International Airport this time under another forged name and passport.

Security men waited for the man until he completed customs and passport formalities before they arrested him. He was astonished when a security man addressed him as "welcome back Ramadan".

The accused told the court that he resorted to forgery to enable him to enter Kuwait and obtain a job.

The court sentenced him to three years imprisonment with hard labour to be followed by deportation.

Train plunges
BANGKOK, May 23, (Reuter): An express passenger train plunged into a deep ravine in northern Thailand today and railway officials alerted hospitals to expect a high casualty toll.

A railway in Lampang said by telephone that 13 carriages of a 15-car train were derailed about 380 km (340 miles) north of Bangkok in darkness and rescue workers were trying to reach the crash site.

One of the crew walked five km (three miles) to report the crash.

Parole hearing
SOLEDAD, California, May 23, (UPI): Sirhan Sirhan, who has been behind bars more than 20 years for killing Sen. Robert Kennedy, went into his 10th parole hearing today with a fear that he will never be released.

The 44-year-old Palestinian had asked that the parole hearing—his first in two years—at the tough state prison at Soledad be postponed until a psychiatric evaluation was completed but the request was denied.

Arms talks
WASHINGTON, May 23, (UPI): US Secretary of State James Baker announced today that the United States and the Soviet Union had agreed to resume arms negotiations on June 19 to halve superpower nuclear arsenals.

Cannes award
CANNES, May 23, (UPI): The American film "See, Lies and Videotape" won the top prize in the 42nd annual Cannes film festival today, and American stars Meryl Streep and James Spaders took the top acting awards.

See Page 3

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Rajiv hails missile test: US worried

WASHINGTON, May 23, (Agencies): The United States was very concerned about India's test-firing of an intermediate-range ballistic missile yesterday, fearing it could undermine stability in the region, a White House spokesman said.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi hailed the successful test as a step towards safeguarding his country's independence. He claimed there was "a great deal of misinformation... being spread by and in interested quarters about this technology."

The US has been trying to limit the number of countries with ballistic missiles, fearing they could be armed with nuclear warheads.

"We've always made our concerns known regarding the spread of ballistic missiles throughout the world," said White House spokesman Roman Popadiuk. "We see that this does not add to stability within various regions, and obviously on India's tests we are very concerned."

Destabilising

He added: "In the past we have made our position very clear to the Indian government, that further proliferation of ballistic missiles in South Asia would be regarded as a highly destabilising development in the region."

India's two-stage, Agni (fire) surface-to-surface missile blasted off from a test range on the Bay of Bengal, along the country's east coast. Two previous attempts to launch the missile, which has a range of 1,500 miles (2,400 km), were aborted shortly before blast-off because of technical problems.

By successfully firing the missile, India joined the US, the Soviet Union, China, France, Britain and Israel in home-made ballistic missile capability.

Scientists yesterday tested the missile for a range of up to 1,000 kilometres (620 miles), the military officials said on condition of not being identified.

Accurate

"Agni is not a weapons system," Rajiv said in a statement issued in New Delhi after the launch. "However, the technologies proved in Agni are deeply significant for evolving national security options."

He said the missile accurately followed the pre-determined flight path and "fully met the objectives we had set for it."

Western military experts said the Agni's 1-ton payload capability was enough to carry a nuclear warhead, although Rajiv denied such a possibility was under consideration.

"What Agni does is to afford us the option of developing the ability to deliver non-nuclear weapons with high precision at long ranges," he said. "This provides us with a viable non-nuclear option of the greatest relevance to contemporary strategic doctrines."

However, defence experts questioned the rationale of developing such a sophisticated guiding system for a nuclear-capable missile.

"You need accuracy or a point target if you are using a conventional warhead," a Western analyst said on condition of not being identified.

Mysterious missile hits Pakistani town, no casualties

ISLAMABAD, May 23, (KUNA): Pakistani military experts were today examining the exploded parts of a mysterious missile which hit the central Pakistani town of Dhakkar yesterday.

News of the yet undetermined missile which did not cause any harm to human life was first broken by Pakistan Army Chief

of Staff General Aslam Baig last night at a dinner hosted by the Senate chairman in Islamabad.

He told journalists that the experts, among other things, would find out from the debris, its make and also the origin of its firing.

The Army chief ruled out the possibility of its being a Scud-missile which have hit Pakistani

territory bordering Afghanistan twice in the last three months. According to him, the range of the Soviet-made Scud missile was 280 kilometres whereas the Dhakkar area in Mianwali-Khushab region in the interior of Punjab province was nearly 360 kilometres.

Baig agreed with a reporter that the missile landed inside

Pakistani territory in the morning and that this was also the time of firing of the Indian Agni missile into the Bay of Bengal. He said that it was known that Agni's maximum range is 2,500 km but it must have a minimum range also.

Pakistan, he said, had no system available with it to detect an incoming missile well in advance.

The United States did have such a system, he noted.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, when told that India's Agni missile had hit Dhakkar area deep in the interior of Pakistan, remarked: "Your news is wrong; if not full, at least half."

According to unofficial reports received in Islamabad the unidentified missile landed at

Gokan Wala in Qadir Bakhsh village, 10 miles from Dhakkar

Benazir starts a three-day official visit to Turkey today aimed at affirming Pakistan's friendly relations with Turkey.

PPP retained its Chitral seat while the IDA kept intact their Mansehra seat in the two National Assembly by-elections held yesterday.



A doctor treats a home guard at a tent clinic in New Delhi, set-up to handle patients turned away from government hospitals after 3,500 doctors went on strike last week. (Reuter wirephoto)

Striking doctors set up clinics

Higher pay demanded

NEW DELHI, India, May 23, (AP): Striking government doctors treated patients at makeshift clinics outside major hospitals and distributed free medicine yesterday as negotiations continued to end their weeklong agitation for more pay.

Dr Rohit Parasher, a strike leader, told reporters the clinics were operated "as an expression of our deep anguish and concern for our patients."

The indefinite strike started today by about 5,000 doctors has forced government hospitals to turn away many patients because of insufficient medical staff.

Parasher said more than 4,000 people came for treatment in the makeshift clinics, set up in tents outside nine of the city's 11 hospitals. Usually, about 32,000 people visit out patient departments of the

hospitals every day, he said.

Free medicine was given to the patients and the clinics will be operated until the strike ends, he said.

He said a doctors' team representing more than 5,000 physicians was meeting with Health Ministry officials. A ministry official, who cannot be identified under briefing rules, confirmed discussions were under way but gave no details.

Earlier week negotiations ended in a deadlock last Monday and the next day more than 3,500 doctors in Delhi walked off. More than 1,400 doctors at government hospitals also went on strike in the cities of Chandigarh, Pondicherry, Banarasi and Aligarh.

Parasher said the last round of talks held late Sunday ended "on a positive note, but it would be premature to make any commitment."

Suzman motion rejected

CAPE TOWN, May 23, (AP):

Parliament today rejected a motion by anti-apartheid legislator Helen Suzman to censure a judge for imposing only a fine on a white farmer who beat a black worker to death over a two-day period.

Suzman, in what colleagues said was the final speech of her 36-year parliamentary career, said the lawmakers who overwhelmingly rejected her motion had given Judge J.J. Strydom "the green light to continue handing down racist judgements."

Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee, opposing the motion, said censure of the judge would amount to "intimidation of the judiciary."

Suzman, who last week announced plans to retire in September, had argued that the sentence imposed on farmer Jacobus Vorster by Strydom as "a gross perversion of justice" that had tarnished the image of South Africa's judiciary.

Her motion was supported only by fellow members of the Democratic Party, which holds 20 of 178 seats in parliament's dominant white chamber.

The governing National Party and far-right Conservative Party

joined in rejecting it.

Vorster tied one of his work-

ers, Eric Sambo, to a tree and beat him with sticks, whips and fists over a two-day period in December 1987 because Sambo accidentally killed one of Vorster's dogs with a tractor. Sambo fled the farm following the accident, and was killed after Vorster, 22 at the time, and a friend encountered him two

months later.

Strydom gave Vorster a five-year sentence, suspended on condition that he pay a 3,000 rand (\$1,200) fine and pay 130 rand (\$52) a month to Sambo's widow and children for five years.

Coetsee said the sentence was appropriate because of the humiliation that Vorster would endure by having to help support a black woman.

Legislators opened debate yesterday on a bill that would enable blacks to serve on the cabinet while remaining excluded from Parliament. One opposition leader termed the government's proposal "an insult to democracy."

The most encouraging (thing) has been to see the reaction of the black majority to the efforts of the government to stifle over unhappiness with the status quo," he said. "While the government's been fairly successful in many cases with the state of emergency, I think the black majority seen even more determined, even stronger in making a difference."

South African Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok said it was too early to repeal a three-year-old state of emergency imposed to suppress black protest against white minority rule.

Legislators opened debate yesterday on a bill that would enable blacks to serve on the cabinet while remaining excluded from Parliament. One opposition leader termed the government's proposal "an insult to democracy."

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Pakistani newspaper bombed

ISLAMABAD, May 23, (Reuters): Youths hurled a petrol bomb into the printing press of an opposition newspaper in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad yesterday, burning machines and paper, a newspaper official said.

About 40 unidentified youths, chanting slogans in favour of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP), attacked the press when yesterday's edition of the Urdu-language daily Markaz was being printed there, he said.

The bomb set off a fire that burned stocked paper and two printing machines. Markaz circulation manager Anwar Salim said.

A spokesman for the opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA) blamed the PPP for the attack, and said it was carried out to punish the newspaper for its critical reports about the PPP.

But a local PPP official said his party was not involved.

Officials outline spending

MOSCOW, May 23, (Reuters): Soviet space officials outlined spending on their manned programmes today and fended off criticism that the money could be better used elsewhere.

Alexander Dunayev, head of the space administration Glavkosmos, told a news conference that 1.47 billion roubles (\$2.35 billion) had been spent on manned programmes since 1986.

Most of the expenditure was connected with the orbital space station Mir, unmanned since late April. Spin-off activities produced profits of \$600,000.

Dunayev, responding to criticism of the space programme during the recent Soviet election campaign, said it was up to scientists to show to the country's new parliament that the expenditure was worthwhile.

"We must show them what we get and what we give back — this is a problem for society as a whole," he said. "We get offers of co-operation from all sorts of other countries. They clearly feel it is worth it."

He said much of the criticism was based on "insufficient knowledge."

The Soviet space programme has suffered setbacks in recent months, including the loss of two probes to Mars and a decision to ground the reusable shuttle Buran, idle since its maiden flight last November.

Such problems prompted the Communist Party daily Pravda to call last month for a reassessment of priorities.

Devastating earthquake

GOLDEN, Colo., May 23, (Reuters): A "huge, devastating earthquake" measuring 8.2 on the Richter scale shook Australia's Macquarie island in the South Pacific today, a spokeswoman for the US Geological Survey said.

Speaking from the survey's National Earthquake Information Centre, she said the quake was capable of causing tremendous damage and was centred near the remote island, located about 830 miles (1,335 km) southwest of Christchurch, New Zealand.



Police push a student (picture above) while a policeman pushes back Tomasz Ziemiński, leader of the Warsaw University branch of the independent NZS students union (picture below) as clashes erupt between police and students after court refused to legalise the pro-Solidarity union. (Reuter wirephotos)

Students battle police

WARSAW, May 23, (Reuters): Polish students fought police with bare fists in central Warsaw today after a court refused to legalise their independent pro-Solidarity NZS union.

About 20 protesters were detained and some were being beaten with batons and kicked in the stomach inside police vans.

Students packing the biggest hall in the Warsaw regional court chanted "Away with communism" when judge Danuta Widawska announced her refusal to accept the NZS statutes and register the union as a legal association.

The NZS was banned with the Solidarity free trade union and Rural Solidarity under martial law in 1981. The government promised their re-legalisation last month and has already registered Solidarity and Rural Solidarity.

Widawska was shouted down as she tried to explain her ruling.

The communist authorities have expressed alarm at student radicalism and oppose a clause in the NZS statutes stating that it has the right to call students out on strike.

More than 200 protesters carrying banners calling for NZS registration and chanting "anti-government slogans" tried to march to the city centre.

They fought with riot police who blocked their way and tried to grab the banners.

At least four members of the NZS national leadership were detained and the head of the union's Warsaw University branch, Tomasz Ziemiński, said he was kicked twice in the stomach.

The violence erupted midway during Poland's parliamentary election campaign, in which the opposition is taking part for the first time in more than 40 years.

See Polish elections Page 4

Airports told to tighten security

MUNICH, May 23, (AP): West German authorities have issued a warning about possible attacks on airliners and have ordered airports in the country to tighten security, officials said today.

The warning came less than a week after Mohammed Ali Hamadi, a Lebanese Shiite Muslim, was convicted of murder and air piracy in the 1985 TWA hijacking and sentenced to life imprisonment by a Frankfurt court.

Officials said after Wednesday's verdict that Hamadi's sentence raised the danger of attacks by terrorists on West German targets.

The latest warning did not specify the reasons for the alert. It came shortly before the start of the busy summer tourist season that further strains the nation's already crowded major airports.

The warning was disclosed in a statement released by the Bavarian Transport Ministry. It said the warning came from the federal Interior Ministry and was sent to all West German regional

authorities and airports in the country.

"The danger of attacks against air traffic has risen recently," the Bavarian statement said, summarising the information it had received from federal security officials.

The statement did not say if authorities had specific information about an impending attack.

Bernard Lenz, spokesman for the Bavarian Transport Ministry, declined to discuss the reasons that led to tighter airport security.

Lenz also refused to give details about the security measures authorities were taking.

But the statement said airport security staff were told to conduct more elaborate inspections of luggage and passengers will have to count on longer check-in times.

After the verdict in Hamadi's trial, the West German Foreign Ministry warned its diplomats to be on the alert for possible retaliation.

The jury is out at Cannes

Canadian film looks like a winner

PARIS, May 23, (Reuters): "Jesus of Montreal," a Canadian film depicting an unusual passion play, is among favourites to win the coveted Golden Palm Award at the Cannes Film Festival, which ends today.

Film critics say the Canadian movie and three or four others have shone among the 22 films in competition at the annual festival, although the 1989 Cannes vintage is a mediocre one, with no films making a major impact.

American film star Meryl

Streep is tipped to take the best actress award for her performance as a falsely accused baby murderer in the Australian movie "A Cry In The Dark."

Efforts to forecast the winner at Cannes are usually based on an analysis of the 10-strong jury to see if its members prefer radical movies.

Critics say the radicals have the edge this year, with West German director Wim Wenders as jury president and American

NEWS IN BRIEF

Evans dies

LOS ANGELES, May 23, (UPI): Actor Peter Evans, who won accolades for a wide range of Broadway roles but was known to a wider audience through his portrayal of Russ Merman on the television comedy series "9 to 5," has died, officials said. He was 38.

Evans died Saturday at Century City Hospital, a Swiss supervisor said. The Los Angeles Times reported that he died of complications of AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome).

Toxic gases

PARIS, May 23, (AP): French doctors working with American and Soviet colleagues in the Soviet Republic of Georgia said today they have confirmed that some demonstrators who died in a clash with police last month were killed by toxic gases.

The Organisation Medecins Sans Frontiers (doctors without borders) said in a statement today that on the basis of autopsy results in 16 cases, chloropicrine had been identified as one of the gases responsible in some of the deaths.

Ethnic unrest

VIENNA, May 23, (Reuters): Seven people were killed and at least 200 arrested when security forces with tanks and armoured vehicles cracked down on demonstrations by ethnic Turks in Bulgaria at the weekend, a Bulgarian emigre said today.

Three Turks were killed in clashes on Sunday after police tried to arrest a Turk at a weekly market in the northern town of Todoriko. Stojan Tabakov, leader of the Bulgarian Social Democratic Party in exile told Reuters in Vienna.

Gibraltar killings

LONDON, May 23, (KUNA): The Ministry of Defence in London refused to comment on a newspaper report today claiming crucial parts of the British government's justification for shooting dead three IRA members in Gibraltar had been "flatly contradicted" by Spanish police sources.

Racist campaign

PARIS, May 23, (KUNA): French ultra-right leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen continued his racist campaign against immigrants from North Africa but said his stand was motivated by national reason and not religious.

Aviation accident

WASHINGTON, May 23, (AP): Safety officials are wrapping up a 12-month investigation into an aviation accident that has led to sweeping changes in maintenance of the world's aging airliner fleet.

The National Transportation Safety Board was meeting today to determine the probable cause and issue recommendations in connection with the April 28, 1988, incident in which the roof of an Aloha Airlines Boeing 737 ripped open over the Hawaiian islands.

Joint mediation

STOCKHOLM, May 23, (AP): The four European neutral countries will confer later this year on offering their joint mediation of international conflicts, Swiss Foreign Minister Rene Felber said today.

Felber, ending a two-day official visit to Sweden, indicated his country was revitalising its traditionally restrained foreign policy to make it "more dynamic," and more involved in the international field.

American health

WASHINGTON, May 23, (UPI): A report card on America's health is giving its highest grade ever as more people take steps to cut cholesterol from their diets and stop smoking, but it warns that 64 per cent of adults are

Study: pill users face cancer risk

New approach could eliminate mastectomies

SAN FRANCISCO, May 23, (AP) Women who took birth control pills while teenagers in the 1960s face about five times the usual risk of breast cancer before they reach menopause, a study concludes.

The research, conducted in Sweden, is one of several recent studies which raise concerns that the pill may increase the odds of breast cancer.

While describing their findings as "alarming," the researchers cautioned that birth control pills have changed substantially since their introduction, and newer pills may not heighten the risk of breast cancer.

The research, directed by Dr Hakan

Olsson and colleagues from University Hospital in Lund, was presented yesterday at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

At the meeting, an Italian specialist described a new approach to treating breast cancer that he said could virtually eliminate the need for mastectomies, which have been the standard approach to the disease for nearly a century.

Breast cancer is the leading cancer killer among women in the United States and strikes one in 10.

Olsson's study was conducted in southern Sweden, where the pill was widely used

by teen-age girls after its introduction in the 1960s.

He said that the incidence of breast cancer among women under age 40 has risen in Sweden since the advent of the pill. And while his study cannot conclusively blame the pill, "we have no other explanation for the increase of breast cancer in young women."

However, even if pill use during the 1960s has increased the chances of breast cancer, the risk is still relatively small among women before they reach menopause. Olsson said that the overall chance of breast cancer before menopause is

about one per cent, while the risk among early pill users is about five per cent.

The increased risk appears to be limited to those who began taking the pill while young. The research found no increased breast cancer among women who started on the pill after age 25 or after their first full-term pregnancy.

Olsson said 10 studies since 1983 have reported links between the pill and breast cancer.

Dr Jules Harris, director of Rush Cancer Centre in Chicago, said the Swedish study "strongly suggests that birth control pills are linked to early, pre-menopausal breast cancer."



Heads in the 'sand'

Protesters bury their heads in the dirt on Sunday during a protest against logging in a southeastern New South Wales forest. The protesters said they were parodying Australian attitudes to logging — like the ostrich they have their heads in the sand. (Reuter wirephoto)

PEOPLE AND PLACES

WASHINGTON: About 25,000 US college students are probably infected with the AIDS virus although they may show no symptoms of the disease, according to a government-funded study made public on Monday.

The study, conducted by the American College Health Association under the sponsorship of the Federal Centers for Disease Control, was meant as "a rough indicator, not an exact estimate," of the prevalence of the AIDS infection on US college campuses. CDC official Dr Helene Gayle told reporters. (Reuter)

ANGELS CAMP, California: A frog named Heavy Metal is the king of the croakers.

The amphibian owned by Tom Beatty, a Bend, Ore., restaurant manager, jumped 19 feet 9 3/4 inches (6.03 m) Sunday to win the 61st annual Jumping Frog Jubilee at the Calaveras county fair. The runner-up was Moon Shine, a croaker owned by Gary Johnson of the Angels Camp Frogs that jumped 19 feet 4 inches (5.89 m). Moon Shine had the lead going into the contest's last jump — made by Heavy Metal. (UPI)

RIO GRANDE, Ohio: A fearless fowl named Judy refused to be cooped up following a record-setting flight at the 18th annual International Chicken Flying Contest.

Judy flew 542 feet, 9 inches (165.45 metres) Saturday to win the contest at the Bob Evans farm in southeast Ohio. Her flight shattered the 10-year-old mark of 302 feet, 8 inches (92.25 metres) and won \$1,100 for her owner, John Salyers.

But Salyers was unable to bring Judy to the trophy stand to share in the award ceremony. During her flight, Judy swept over the flying course, an adjacent field, and so far into the nearby woods that Salyers was unable to find her. (AP)

MALIBU, California: Actor Martin Sheen is upset about "certain irresponsible media personalities" for the way they reacted to his declaration as honorary mayor of this star-studded beach community.

Sheen started some of his neighbours by designating Malibu a nuclear-free haven for the homeless and aliens. On Sunday, he had more to say. "I regret that my concern for the poor and the environment was so dishonestly misinterpreted and misused to perpetrate a cruel hoax on four million Americans who are already broken beyond any measure of understanding," Sheen said in a statement. (AP)

EAST MORICHES, New York: A man making his first sky dive died after he jumped in the wrong position and his parachute failed to open, an instructor says.

Jack Reilly, 28, was injured fatally Saturday at Spadaro Airport. He and 18 others had just completed a sky-diving class.

Ray Maynard, president of Skydive of Long Island Inc., said Reilly jumped out of a plane at about 3,000 feet (915 metres). Jumpers are attached to a "static line" that automatically pulls the chute from its pack, he said.

Reilly jumped in the wrong position, causing the parachute to not fully open, then waited too long to pull his reserve chute, which opened about 300 feet (91 metres) from the ground, Maynard said. (AP)

HUTCHINSON, Kansas: Doctors removed nearly eight ounces (227 grams) of razor blades, paper clips and metal bedspans from the stomach of a prison inmate who swallowed the metal in a suicide attempt.

Surgeons operated on Carl Rhodes, 32, on Friday, a prison official said. Rhodes swallowed the metal on March 13.

The metal was thought to have caused a gastric ulcer but no other damage, said Les Harmsen, associate director of the Kansas state industrial reformatory. (AP)

NEW YORK: People trying to find out why the popular television show "Moonlighting" was cancelled have at least two suspects — Bruce Willis and

Cybill Shepherd.

The show's stars apparently spent much of their time arguing with each other and with the series' creator, Glenn Gordon Caron, said an ABC-TV official quoted in this week's People magazine.

The tongue-in-cheek detective series had its final episode earlier this month, after four seasons spiced with snappy repartee and double entendres. It made a star of Willis and was a comeback vehicle for Shepherd. (AP)

PRETORIA, South Africa: An African National Congress guerrilla facing execution for a 1986 bombing that killed three people has married his girlfriend in an interracial wedding ceremony on death row, a newspaper reported Monday.

Robert McBride, 25, was sentenced to death in April 1987, ten months after planting a bomb at a beachfront bar in Durban that killed three women and injured 69 people. The blast occurred two days after President P.W. Botha declared a national state of emergency. (AP)

LONDON: Feel like devouring a whole ox or swallowing 2.5 pounds (1.1 kg) of sheep's brains in less than three minutes? Don't bother, the Guinness

LONDON: One of Britain's best regional museums that was destroyed by German bombers and paved over as a parking lot will be the focus of an unusual archaeological dig this year.

The city of Hull in the northeast England opened the site of the Old Hull Municipal Museum to the public Monday, turning it into a kind of retrospective of the 1940s, with extracts from war broadcasts and popular songs piped into the dig, said project co-ordinator David Fleming.

The six-month dig was organised by civil officials, assisted by an American museum, to save what is left of a once-fine historical collection. (AP)

HOUSTON: The only known manuscript copy of Clifford Irving's phony Howard Hughes autobiography sold at auction for \$5,000.

The manuscript was sold Sunday along with other Hughes memorabilia, including an album containing several unpublished photographs of the reclusive billionaire on his record-setting, round-the-world airplane flight.

The buyer of the manuscript would not give his name. Irving in the early 1970s duped a publisher out of \$650,000 by claiming he had compiled an autobiography of Hughes based on 100 secret meet-



Beauty queens

Coiffured and cloistered, 76 beauty queens are preparing their charms for the Miss Universe competition, with the Netherlands and Venezuela hot favourites to win the \$300,000 crown.

Organisers expect a world-viewing audience of more than 600 million people when the final spectacular is staged on Tuesday night in Cancun, Mexican beach resort, ravaged eight months ago by Hurricane Gilbert, the strongest of the century.

Journalists who slipped past security guards to attend the pre-recorded semifinal of the event on Sunday night, when the girls paraded in swimsuits and ball gowns, said computer scores placed Miss Holland, 22-year-old Angela Visser from Rotterdam, and Miss Venezuela, Liza Jung, 18, from Barquisimeto, in the lead.

They said the two were closely followed by Miss USA, 24-year-old Gretchen Polhemus, a cattle and property broker from Fort Worth, Texas.

The winner of the contest will receive more than \$300,000 in cash and prizes and become an immediate celebrity, travelling the world for a year.

She will take the crown from 21-year-old Pornpit Nakhirunkanok, last year's Miss Thailand, who, according to the organisers, plans to return to her studies in psychology after her year as Miss Universe. (Reuter wirephoto)

Book of records urged on Monday.

Editor Donald McFarlane said Guinness was dropping 43 great feats of gluttony from its next edition later this year because of health fears.

"If you have witnessed one of these competitions, they are simply gross," he told Britain's Press Association News Agency.

"When I am at parties, for example, people tell me the gluttony records are ridiculous and I just can't put my hand on my heart and defend them." (Reuter)

ings. (AP)

ANCHORAGE, Alaska: A grand jury on Monday indicted the former captain of the Exxon Valdez on three felony counts for his role in the nation's worst oil spill.

Joseph Hazelwood was charged with three counts of second-degree criminal mischief, said district attorney Dwayne McCormell. If convicted, he could be sentenced to up to 15 years in prison and a \$150,000 fine. (AP)

Doctors transplant altered human cells

WASHINGTON, May 23, (Agencies): Scientists have for the first time transplanted genetically altered cells into a human, the head of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) said yesterday.

"Ultimately this new technique could open the door to studies that will use gene insertion to produce therapeutic results in a wide range of diseases," NIH director Dr James Wyngaarden said in a statement.

He said NIH cancer researchers Steven Rosenberg, Michael Blaese and W. French Anderson had transplanted special genetically engineered cancer-fighting cells into an unidentified terminal cancer patient earlier yesterday.

The cells' genetic makeup had been altered by the insertion of an altered mouse virus to mark the cells so that researchers can keep track of them.

To avoid any potential harm, the virus is deliberately crippled so that it cannot reproduce in the patient.

The cancer-fighting cells, known as tumour-infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs), are first removed from the cancer patient, tagged by the addition of the new genetic material, and then allowed to proliferate.

Finally, they are returned to the patient in hopes of helping to fight his or her cancer.

The scientists eventually plan to transplant the marked genes into another nine patients in this phase of their research.

The patients, with life expectancies of about 90 days, have given their written consent to participate in the trials and have been fully briefed on the risks, the NIH said.

The NIH researchers found last year that the TILs shrunk the tumours of more than half of 20 patients with advanced melanoma.

The marked cells will help them learn why some patients respond to the treatment while others do not, the NIH said.

In another development the deadliest form of skin cancer, melanoma, can be stopped from spreading if it is detected and treated in its earliest stage of development, a study said today.

The average American has a 1-in-35 chance of suffering melanoma, and people with light skin or who have been exposed to excessive sunlight are at greatest risk of contracting the cancer that strikes 27,000 new victims annually.

Of 386 melanoma patients in the University of Pennsylvania study, 122 had been diagnosed during the "radical growth" or early phase of the disease and none of them suffered a fatal relapse eight to 15 years after surgery.

But doctors said only 30 per cent of all melanoma cases are detected in the early stage, while the others were detected in the later, more aggressive stage, which occurs within months or years of onset.

"This is the first study to show a sharp distinction between phases of the first stage of melanoma, and that survival can be assured if the disease is detected and treated in this first phase," said Dr Dupont Guerry, an associate professor of medicine at the university, who led the study.



Endangered species

Amazonian Indian leader Raoni, travelling the world with pop star Sting, meets another endangered species on Sunday, the koala. Raoni is at the end of a 17-nation tour after lobbying to save areas of the diminishing Amazon jungle. (Reuter wirephoto)

Drug abuse cases soar

Hospitals flooded

WASHINGTON, May 23, (UPI): A government survey of 19 cities released yesterday shows hospital emergency rooms are being flooded with record numbers of cocaine cases along with increased numbers of heroin and marijuana cases.

The survey by the National Institute on Drug Abuse was released by representative Charles Rangel, Democrat of New York, chairman of the House Select Committee on Narcotics and Control, and Representative Lawrence Coughlin, Republican of Pennsylvania, ranking minority member.

Emergency room drug cases were studied in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Detroit, Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis, Newark, New Jersey, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Arizona, St Louis, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Dallas-San Antonio, and Washington DC. Most of the data covers the four quarters ending March 1988.

"Cocaine continues to be the most noteworthy drug of concern throughout most of the (19-city) network," the report said.

Fifteen of the 19 cities had record high numbers of cocaine emergency room cases, the survey found, while Miami and Los Angeles showed declines

and Denver and San Francisco reported slight increases.

Increases in cocaine-related deaths were found in Minneapolis, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Washington and most Western cities except San Diego; declines were found in New York and Detroit.

Rangel and Coughlin said in a statement the dramatic increase in cocaine emergencies could be attributed "largely to a surge nationwide in the supply and demand for crack, a new cheap cocaine derivative, and a sharp increase in cocaine free-basing. People need to know that crack and other cocaine forms maim and kill."

Ten of the 19 cities showed increases in heroin emergency room cases. New Orleans showed a 300 per cent increase in such cases, Philadelphia and St Louis more than doubled such cases. However, the report said the figures could be overstated due to a change in reporting criteria for heroin.

Heroin-related deaths increased in the northeast, the report said, while western cities reported declines or stable trends.

As for marijuana, 16 of the 19 cities reported increases in emergency room cases, with seven cities showing increases of more than 100 per cent.

Doctors end 130 days of isolation for cave woman

CARLSBAD, New Mexico, May 23, (Reuter): Doctors yesterday ended the experimental isolation of an Italian researcher who has lived in a desert cave since January without seeing or hearing another human.

Because the isolation had so disrupted her sense of time, the researcher, Stefania Follini, 27, reacted with shock and disbelief when project leader Maurizio Montalbini, using a computer linked by cable to the cave's interior, typed the current date and time.

Earlier, in the day, Follini had been asked what she thought the date to be. She replied without hesitation March 14.

Then she heard another person's voice for the first time in four months and nine days. "Stefania, I'm your god talking to you," Montalbini said over an intercom.

The 27-year-old Italian woman looked at a video camera trained on her, laughed and said: "I didn't think you would find me down here."

Follini woman has been living 30 feet (9 metres) underground since Jan 13.

Montalbini broke the news first by typing it in Italian over a computer connected to Follini's. "You have lived 130 days in temporary isolation," Montalbini wrote.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Dr. K. T. B. MENON

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received from various friends and
relatives in his recent bereavement
and
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World's religious texts to be translated

Sacred literature trust set up

UNITED NATIONS, May 23, (Reuter): Britain's Prince Philip yesterday launched the International Sacred Literature Trust that will translate into English key texts of some of the world's major religions.

He told a news conference at the United Nations the idea grew out of meetings attended by leading religious figures at Assisi, Italy, in 1986, marking the 25th anniversary of the Worldwide Fund for Nature, of which Philip is the international president.

One result was the establishment of a group called "the network on religion and conservation," he said.

"But discussions about attitudes to nature soon revealed that, since much of the sacred literature is

not available in any of the principal international languages, there were problems about the mutual comprehension of the relevant scriptural texts," he said.

"It was largely this factor that inspired the idea of creating the Sacred Literature Trust, with the object of putting together the very best translations of the most significant texts in a series of publications of the highest quality."

Involved in the trust are scholars and other representatives of Islam, Christianity, the Baha'i faith, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, Sikhism and Taoism, as well as members of indigenous faiths such as that of the Australian Aborigines and Japanese Shinto.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Rapist killing

West German Bernhard Loh (left) leaves a Turkish-Cypriot court after his mother and sister were jailed for four and three years respectively for killing a rapist who attacked them in a lonely seaside tent-site. (Reuter wirephoto)

Second arraigned

WASHINGTON, May 23, (UPI): Retired Maj. Gen. Richard Secord pleaded innocent yesterday to nine felony charges that he lied to Congress' Iran-Contra committees when he swore he did not expect to profit from secret arms sales directed by Oliver North.

Secord, 56, who showed no emotion during his brief arraignment, also faces an earlier conspiracy indictment stemming from a special prosecutor's Iran-Contra investigation.

Settlement sought

BONN, May 23, (KUNA): Chancellor Helmut Kohl will maintain contacts with US President George Bush and other NATO leaders in search of a settlement for the inter-NATO dispute over short-range nuclear forces (SNF) Federal Information Minister Hans Klein said last night.

Klein indicated that the government here had softened its attitude on the divisive issue after it has been pressing for East-West talks on SNF reduction.

But the minister pointed out that Bonn and Washington are still apart on how to solve the dispute, though the government here on Sunday described a US compromise proposal on SNF as a basis for an agreement.

Bomb suspected
ROME, May 23, (Reuter): An Italian commission of inquiry has revived a possibility that a bomb, not a missile, blew up an airliner over the Mediterranean in 1980 killing 81 people.

The government commission also criticised Libya for giving "evasive responses" to its inquiries, according to a summary of the report released yesterday by the office of caretaker Prime Minister Ciriaco De Mita.

Appeal rejected

WASHINGTON, May 23, (Reuter): The US Supreme Court yesterday rejected an appeal by the owners of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro seeking to dismiss a lawsuit by American passengers over the 1985 hijacking of the vessel.

The passengers were held captive and were terrorised by the Palestinian hijackers during the 52-hour ordeal in the Mediterranean that ended on Oct 9, 1985.

Hijacker foiled

MOSCOW, May 23, (KUNA): Soviet official spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov yesterday disclosed that the crew of a Soviet airliner had overpowered a hijacker during a trip from Luanda to Dar es Salaam.

Gerasimov did not identify the hijacker, but said he was carrying explosives and demanded to land in South Africa.

He said only the hijacker was injured in the incident.

Villagers protest

BELGRADE, May 23, (Reuter): More than 100 people from a Yugoslav village camped in front of the federal parliament in Belgrade today, staging a hunger strike to protest alleged police harassment and abuse by local authorities.

A leader of the group from the Bosnian village of Mosevac, Dzavad Gali Jasevic, told Reuters they had come to seek federal help in a dispute with local officials and to demand the release of a fellow villager jailed last week.

Veto criticised

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, May 23, (AP): Foreign Minister Russel Marshall criticised Australia today for effectively vetoing a New Zealand-sponsored international agreement aimed at controlling mining in Antarctica.

"I just can't frankly see the point of saying no to something very substantially in the hope that you'll get something perfect and you hope that you'll get something perfect soon," Marshall said.

"It's a great pity that (it) has been... 20 or 30 countries over six years," he added.



Polish elections

People admire campaign posters at the Warsaw election headquarters of Solidarity which is contesting in the party-democratic parliamentary elections in June. At right Solidarity leader Lech Walesa gives the V-victory sign at a Polish election campaign rally. Walesa says he will "ride the Solidarity tank to freedom" in the elections. (Reuter wirephoto)

Bushmen fear uncertain fate in Namibia

South African soldiers face starvation and retribution

MANGETTI, Namibia, May 23, (Agencies): Antonio Sabao fears that he and his family will not survive Namibia's transition to independence.

"We are going to starve and if we don't starve then SWAPO will want to kill us," said Sabao, one of the 500 bushmen employed by South Africa's 203 battalion.

Sabao fled southern Angola, the traditional hunting lands of his Vaseela group of bush people, in 1974, when they were caught in the crossfire of a war between Portuguese colonisers and the country's three liberation movements.

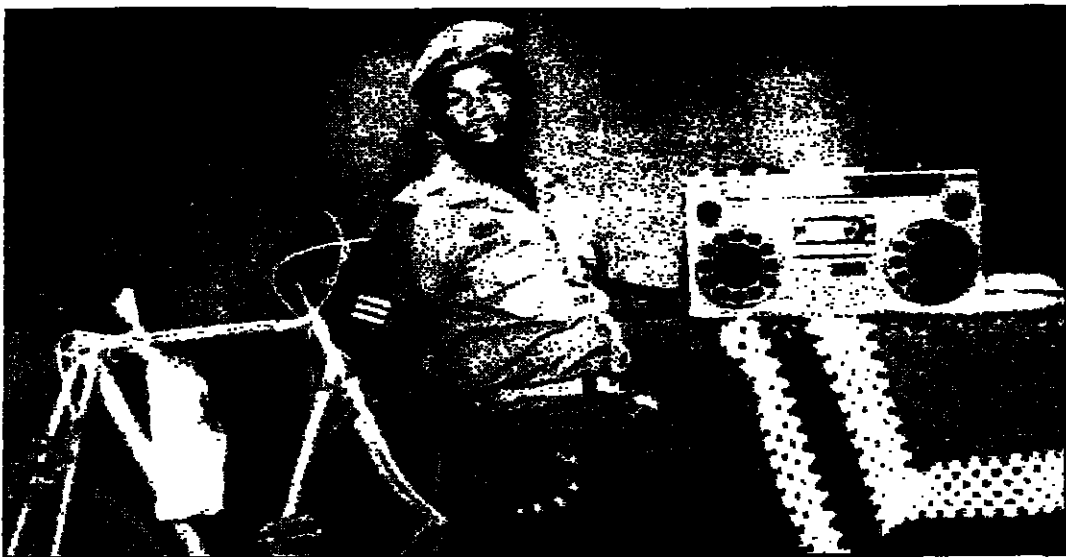
"Many, many of my people died. Only my brother and I managed to escape with our wives," he said through an Army interpreter.

"Now maybe we will have to run again, but we have no land here, we have nowhere to go. This land is the land of the Ju Wa bushmen," he said in the language of the Vaseela.

Namibia's 33,000 bushmen, known to anthropologists as the San people, are divided into five physically distinct groups who each speak a different language.

The homeland of Sabao's Vaseela people is in southern Angola and Namibia's eastern Caprivi Strip. The 203 battalion base at Mangetti is in the traditional homeland of the Ju Wa, who hunt the eastern border region of Namibia and neighbouring Botswana.

The bushmen of 203 battalion, renowned trackers and tough fighters through the last 15 years of Pretoria's 23-year war against the rebel South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), have handed in their guns and their webbing.



Sergeant Antonio Sabao, who fled the Angolan civil war in 1974 and joined the Bushman battalion, sees little hope. (Reuter wirephoto)

South Africa is obliged in terms of the United Nations peace plan for Namibia to disband its ethnic forces in the territory. Their salaries of 600 rand (\$250) a month will be paid until independence elections in November.

Hundreds more bushmen face a similar fate at

South Africa's bigger Omega Base in the north. "They are all going to starve," said John Marshall, an American anthropologist who has campaigned for decades on behalf of Namibia's bushmen.

"Directly or indirectly each soldier supports

probably dozens of other bushmen. There is no provision for these people. All they have to look forward to is famine," he said.

"If the political status quo remains more or less intact after November then I think the various government departments will do their best to prevent famine and starvation," said Battalion Commander Scholtz van Wyk.

"But if there is a totally new government then I don't know what will happen. If SWAPO gets in there could be retribution against these people," Van Wyk said.

An official of the British Council of Churches was allowed to enter Namibia yesterday after being detained overnight at the airport.

Gerhard Roux, spokesman for the territorial government, said the Rev. Brian Brown was issued a permit allowing him to stay in Namibia for 12 days. Roux said Brown arrived Sunday without proper travel documents and was held at the airport police station after refusing to return to Johannesburg, the transit point on his journey from London.

Brown, a former South African anti-apartheid activist, had been invited by Namibian churches to observe the United Nations-supervised transition to independence from South Africa.

The 50-year-old Methodist minister left South Africa after the government imposed bans on his political activities in 1977. He now oversees Africa-related issues for the British Council of Churches.

In a separate development, a United Nations official said yesterday that a black member of the UN Monitoring Force was assaulted by a local white man at a restaurant.

French not eager to fight

Pacifist attitude

PARIS, May 23, (Reuter): Just one French citizen in five would defend West Germany if the country's closest ally were invaded by the Soviet Union, an opinion poll revealed yesterday.

And most people would rather negotiate than fight if France itself were threatened.

The findings are likely to shock Bonn and Paris, which never let slip a chance to display their postwar reconciliation and commitment to joint defence.

Results published by the Paris daily Le Monde also showed that most French people perceived a military threat from Arab countries and Iran far outstripping that from Moscow.

As for "serious risk of world war," only 28 per cent considered that likely in the next few years compared with a sanguine 68 per cent who thought it would not happen.

Le Monde said the optimists were roughly twice as numerous as in a similar poll eight years ago.

Asked what France should do if Warsaw Pact armies invaded West Germany, two per cent said "use nuclear weapons," 19 per cent said "defend Germany but without nuclear arms" and 21 per cent said "remain totally neutral."

But in a response likely to disturb policymakers in both France and West Germany, 46 per cent said France should "try to negotiate with the Soviet Union and not enter into military conflict."

A further 12 per cent expressed no opinion.

Gorbachev gets top nomination

Party debates corruption

MOSCOW, May 23, (Reuter): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has won the Communist Party's support to take on the country's new executive presidency at the head of a more powerful parliament.

A plenary session of the party's Central Committee, meeting yesterday three days before the parliament's inaugural session, also discussed an investigation into high-level corruption.

The agenda also included the national economy and the territorial dispute over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, according to a list of a 35 speakers at yesterday's meeting issued by the Tass news agency.

None of the addresses was made public and both Tass and the evening television news gave short accounts of proceedings.

Gorbachev's nomination for the presidency had been virtually assured. But there have been predictions that an alternative candidate would stand against him at the opening of the new parliament, the 2,250-seat Congress of People's Deputies.

The Soviet leader has held the largely ceremonial post of president since last October. The new post entails significant powers — overseeing legislation, naming the prime minister and decision-making in foreign and defence policy.

He will head the Supreme Soviet — a smaller chamber of more than 500 members to be elected at the opening session and which will be in session for eight months a year.

The Soviet Supreme Court said yesterday that citizens may not be thrown in jail for express-



Gorbachev: support

ing truthful criticism of officials, limiting the scope of a new decree widely criticised by reformers and dissidents alike.

The court reviewed a decree passed by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet on April 8 because citizens already have been arrested under differing interpretations of the law, according to a report distributed by the Tass news agency.

Authorities in the disrupted Azerbaijan region of Nagorno-Karabakh have renewed an appeal for its transfer to Armenia and for an end to direct rule from Moscow, the official Tass news agency said yesterday.

Tass also reported that the situation in the region — where 91 people died last year in ethnic clashes — remained difficult, with factories and building sites on strike.

Many refugees streaming into the capital Stepanakert from elsewhere in the enclave were without jobs or homes.

Disband NATO

Warsaw Pact: call

MOSCOW, May 23, (Agencies): The Soviet Union has suggested to NATO nations that both the Western alliance and the Warsaw Pact be disbanded.

"The Warsaw Treaty states propose disbanding both military alliances at the same time, starting with disbanding of their military forces," Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov said at a news briefing.

Gerasimov said the full appeal to members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation would be published in Soviet newspapers.

The 16-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organisation was scheduled to hold a summit on its 40th anniversary next week.

It was not the first time East European officials have broached the idea, but yesterday's statement comes as NATO is divided over the depth of changes in the Soviet Union.

West Germany advocates talks on the elimination of tactical nuclear weapons in Europe while the United States and Britain say no such talks are possible while the Soviet Union and its allies have overwhelming superiority in the battlefield weapons and conventional forces.

Gerasimov said yesterday the East European alliance was suggesting expanding arms negotiations to all weapons systems, including naval weapons.

He said the appeal was being made because times have changed since the post-war era when the two alliances were formed.

Talks
Secretary-General Manfred Woerner said in an interview published today he favoured talks with the East bloc to reduce short-range nuclear weapons but did not want them eliminated altogether.

Woerner's comments, in an interview with La Libre Belgique newspaper, appeared as the NATO allies strove to hammer out a compromise over short-range nuclear forces (SNF) weapons to preserve unity at a NATO summit here on May 29 and 30.

Woerner, a former West German defence minister, suggested linking such talks to negotiations in Vienna on cutting conventional weapons stocks.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl says he will maintain contact with US President George Bush in hopes of solving the SNF dispute.

Letter
Kohl told reporters yesterday he had sent a letter to Bush and expected to telephone the President this week for further discussions on the missile issue which NATO leaders seek to defuse before next week's 40th anniversary summit.

British embassy asked to cut staff

Soviets have not changed: Thatcher

MOSCOW, May 23, (Agencies): Soviet authorities have told the British embassy in Moscow to start cutting staff at British institutions after both countries expelled 11 of each other's nationals, the embassy said today.

Spokesman Andy Tucker said the embassy was told the number of its employees and those at other organisations must be cut from 375 to 205 to bring them in line with staff levels at Soviet offices in London.

The embassy has estimated that only 150 or so British diplomats, journalists and businessmen are currently accredited in the Soviet Union, indicating the cuts would affect mostly Soviet nationals working for them.

Tucker said many issues linked to the quotas were still unclear — notably, how the embassy could be expected to apply them to other offices run by British businesses and journalists.

"One of the proposals they put to us was that the embassy should produce a list of who these 205 should be," Tucker said.

"We explained that the nature of our society is such that many of these people do not work for the government. We told them we could talk about the embassy but we could not talk for anyone else."

He added: "At the end of our meeting there was a great deal that was not clear. It will take some time for us to get full clarity."

The quota was imposed after Britain ordered eight Soviet diplomats and three journalists on Friday, accusing them of activities "incompatible with their status" — diplomatic jargon for spying.

The Soviet Union's decision to retaliate in kind for Britain's expulsion of 11 Soviets accused of spying proved that Moscow has not really changed, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said



Peskov, with his wife and children, speaks to journalists in London. (Reuter wirephoto)

yesterday. She said Britain had tried to give the Soviets "a chance... to show that things were different" by ordering the Soviets expelled secretly, but the Soviets had chosen to throw out 11 Britons in retaliation.

She said the Britons were not guilty of any wrongdoing. Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said Britain would continue to work toward improved relations despite the weekend expulsions, although it would not turn a "blind eye" toward spying.

In London, a Soviet embassy counsellor called the British expulsions "very deplorable, unfriendly and provocative, and very much contrary to the trust that has just been built up between our two countries."

"All the representatives, including the journalists, were not involved in anything wrong," he said. "They were doing their jobs."

But Howe told the House of Commons: "We shall not turn a blind eye to unacceptable activity which threatens our national security and so the safety of our citizens."

"It is because of the continu-

ance of this kind of conduct that it is necessary for us to remain vigilant in all respects toward the conduct of the Soviet Union."

Britain is not alone in expelling Soviets for misconduct, he said, adding that 248 Soviets had been expelled in the last five years worldwide and 24 in the last 12 months from 12 countries.

Howe said the Soviet decision to retaliate "shows how far they still have to go to live up to standards of behaviour which the free world regards as normal."

Still, he promised that Britain would continue to work to sustain improvements in bilateral relations.

Since Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in 1985, the Soviets have matched expulsions one-for-one.

A Soviet journalist who is among 11 Russians expelled by Britain has denied he is a spy and challenged the British government to explain why it was ordering him out.

"I was posted here as a journalist and worked as a journalist. To suggest I am a spy is absolute nonsense," Igor Peskov, political correspondent of the official Soviet Tass news agency, told a reporter in London.

Colour discrimination in US
Prejudice among blacks

ATLANTA, Georgia, May 23, (AP): Friction between light- and dark-skinned blacks in the United States underlies an unusual federal lawsuit in which a black woman says she lost her job because of her light complexion.

Tracy Lynn Morrow said she sued to get her Internal Revenue Service job back and to fight prejudice within her race.

"If there is this problem within our black society, then I think we have to correct it," Morrow said yesterday. "That would make us stronger, too. I feel it would help us as a race."

Earlier this month, a federal judge denied a motion to dismiss the case, ruling Morrow could claim job discrimination if she could prove her supervisor, also black, harassed and ultimately fired her over skin tone.

Morrow, who turns 27 tomorrow, was fired

as a clerk-typist in March 1986. Last July, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission allowed her to sue.

Morrow contends her supervisor, Ruby Lewis, harassed her soon after Lewis was promoted in 1985.

"She tortured me mentally," Morrow said. "I heard it said that the only reason I got the job was because I had light skin."

Lewis replied in court documents that Morrow was fired because of incompetence and job attitude, not skin colour.

"Since hues of skin have never been a consideration with me and I never even thought about it until Tracy presented it as an issue in this case, it's impossible for me to have discriminated against her on that basis," Lewis said in court documents.

Psychiatric test for woman trying to kill Quayle

BALTIMORE, US, May 23, (AP): A psychiatric evaluation has been ordered for a Maryland woman who said she crashed her car through the gate at Camp David because Iranians told her to kill Vice-President Dan Quayle, authorities said yesterday.

Mary Louise Tasler, 48, was arrested and hospitalised after the incident the evening of May 10 at the presidential retreat in the

Catoctin Mountains. No guests were at Camp David at the time.

According to court papers filed in US district court here, Tasler told authorities: "My Iranian friends, they are forcing me to do it, to kill the vice-president."

Investigators said Tasler, who lives within blocks of Camp David, had been dating an Iraqi diplomat for at least a month.

She was charged with knowingly and willfully threatening the life of the vice-president, which carries a maximum penalty on conviction of five years in prison and a \$1,000 fine, said Joe Coppola, the chief Secret Service agent in Baltimore.

She was driving a 1987 Pontiac Fiero with temporary Maryland licence plates when it crashed into the heavily reinforced gate.

Carter expects Noriega's fall soon

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina, May 23, (Agencies): Former US President Jimmy Carter yesterday blasted Panama's de facto ruler, Manuel Antonio Noriega, as a "hoodlum" whose days are numbered, and he urged the United States to maintain a tough posture against the dictator's government.

Three Latin American mediators headed for Panama to seek democracy.

Carter said Noriega has refused to accept the results of a Panamanian election which his hand-picked presidential candidate, Carlos Duque, lost by a wide margin; according to independent observers.

"I think Noriega's days are numbered," Carter said at a news conference. "The Organisation of American States has taken a very strong stand against him. Twenty-four foreign ministers are going to Panama, and I have talked with them."

Carter, who as president negotiated and signed the Panama Canal Treaty ending the critical waterway to Panama on Dec 31, 1999, was invited to Panama as part of an international team of observers to monitor the election.

He said a private pollster had advised him that Noriega could expect to take at most 35 per cent of the vote. But he said Noriega refused to believe that observation, even after the votes were counted.

Surprised

"Noriega was faced with an election that caught him totally by surprise," Carter said. "I think he was convinced the people would give him support. The Panamanian election law has a built-in fraud element of about 10 per cent, so even if he lost the election Noriega could declare himself a winner."

"But despite the fraud element, the vote was 75-25 against him. Even I was surprised at the extent of the outcome," Carter said.

"We tried to convince Noriega he should be prepared to lose and that when that happened he should become the hero of the Panamanian people by accepting the results and showing them what democracy means," Carter said. "But he decided to steal the election."

Noriega has warned it will "never accept" any interference by OAS, which has dispatched a delegation to attempt to negotiate a political settlement following the annulment of national elections.

Sahadeo Basdeo, Foreign Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, arrived in Panama City last night as the first of a four-man team sent by the OAS.

On May 17, the OAS foreign ministers decided in Washington to send the delegation and it condemned what it said were abuses by Noriega, Panama's de facto ruler and military chief.

The rest of the team — OAS Secretary-General Jose Baena Soares, Foreign Ministers Diego Cordovez of Ecuador and Mario Palencia of Guatemala — was expected to arrive today. They intend to report back by June 5 on their initiative.

Statement

Almost simultaneously, the government's Council of Ministers issued a statement denouncing the United States for "trying to isolate Panama... to destabilise and overthrow our constitutional government."

The statement, signed by acting President Manuel Solis Palma and 12 cabinet ministers, criticised the OAS for approving a resolution last week, which the statement said exceeded its mandate and "constitutes inadmissible offences to our national dignity."

Earlier yesterday, opposition leaders visited supporters in a bid to revitalise the campaign to oust Noriega.

Guillermo Endara, the civil democratic opposition alliance presidential candidate in the elections, toured factories in Panama City with his two vice-presidential running mates, Ricardo Arias Calderon and Guillermo Ford.

The visits, Ford said, were designed to restore the confidence of opposition supporters after the brutal attack on May 10 by pro-Noriega supporters on the three anti-government candidates. Police followed the opposition leaders yesterday on their tour, but did not interfere.

Israel rejects call for peace by Baker

Shamir meets Thatcher

TEL AVIV, May 23. (Reuters) Israel today rebuffed a call by US Secretary of State James Baker to renounce dreams of a greater Israel and halt Jewish settlements in occupied areas.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, in London on an official visit, told Israel Radio in London: "I do not know how one could talk of a greater Israel. We are very small country."

The settlements do not have an impact on peace," Israel's Maariv newspaper quoted him as saying.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, in a radio interview from Brussels, said: "There is indeed a dream of a greater Israel and the past has shown that Israel's dreams can come true."

Baker, in his first major speech on Middle East policy, told America's leading pro-Israel lobby



Thatcher (centre) welcomes Shamir and his wife at 10 Downing Street. (Reuters wirephoto)

yesterday that Israel should lay aside "the unrealistic vision of a greater Israel. Forswear annexation. Stop settlement activity ... (in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip)."

Greater Israel, as generally understood, comprises Israel in its pre-1967 borders plus the West Bank and Gaza Strip, captured from Jordan and Egypt. The boundaries correspond roughly to those of biblical Israel considered by religious, nationalist Jews as their birthright.

Shamir told a London news conference: "We cannot agree to what he said about some positions of Israel in the future, or even issues not related directly to the peace initiative."

Shamir said: "I don't think that these issues on which we differ are anything to do with our proposed peace initiative."

Shamir is proposing that the 1.7 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would elect negotiators to hold talks with Israel on interim-rule and a long-term peace settlement.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has told Shamir that his plan for elections in the occupied territories, though welcome, offered no magic solutions to end the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Shamir, 73, in Britain to seek Thatcher's backing for his plan and counter the bad publicity generated by Israel's handling of a 17-month Palestinian uprising.

The British leader for three-and-a-half hours of talks yesterday.

Thatcher welcomed the proposals as a step forward but stressed that "they don't go far enough," a spokesman at her Downing Street office said.

Shamir's spokesman said Thatcher did not press Israel to talk to the PLO, although Britain has upgraded its ties with the organisation and believes PLO chairman Yasser Arafat is a necessary ingredient in the quest for peace.

Thatcher did, however, reiterate her belief that Israel must give up occupied territories in return for peace, the land-for-peace option which the PLO believes is the basis for a peaceful settlement but which Shamir rejects.

The PLO today welcomed the tone of Baker's statement but said it only repeated known policies.

PLO executive committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo said: "The words are tough but there's nothing new. The same things were said by (former Secretary of State George) Shultz last September."

He expressed disappointment that Baker called for talks between Israel and Palestinians in the occupied territories, without mentioning the PLO.

Because of US objections, the UN Security Council abandoned an effort to issue a statement criticising Israeli actions in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and will now consider what alternative action to take.

Rebuffed by the US and Britain, Shamir will seek Spain's support for his peace plan during a three-day trip, starting tomorrow.

"Mr Rabin expressed an interest in seeing that the United States maintain its military commitment to Israel," a US defence official said after Rabin and Cheney met for more than an hour at the Defence Department.

Secretary Cheney said he would do his best to maintain the current level," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

While the violent trend strikes fear in many Palestinians living near settlements or working daily in Israel, it is also a source of concern to Israelis.

President Chaim Herzog has warned Israelis against taking the law into their own hands, as Jewish settlers demanded a right to deal harshly with crowds of Arab stone-throwers.

Facing rising casualties, some of the 70,000 settlers who live in the occupied Arab territories have sought a vigilante role toward the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule.

Inside Israel, police searched for motorists who hurled a rock at a passing car, killing the Arab driver.

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A day of celebration: Arafat

(Continued from Page 1)

Syria has in the past said it would only withdraw its troops if Israel quit a self-declared security zone in south Lebanon.

Assad and Khaddafi came to Casablanca after two days of talks with the presidents of Algeria and Tunisia, first in Tripoli and then in the west Algerian city of Oran.

Although the two North African leaders are not counted among the radicals, they were apparently trying to smooth the way for a successful-for host King Hassan their partner in the five-nation Arab Maghreb Union.

Delegates said Assad might well need them to try to blunt any anti-Syrian offensive at the summit.

Mubarak told reporters he did not rule out a separate meeting with Assad at the summit.

But he remarked sharply that Assad was his junior when they were both air force officers during the brief union between Syria and Egypt under the late President Gamal Abdel Nasser.

Reflecting the moderates' delight at Egypt's return, Arafat told reporters after visiting Mubarak: "This is an incommensurable day for the Arab nation. It is a day of celebration."

In an interview in Beirut, Aoun said it would be better if Lebanon were not formally represented at the summit.

"If Lebanon is not represented at the league (summit) it would be very good because the Arabs would openly discuss our problems," he said, adding that he would be ready to discuss Lebanon directly with Syria at the meeting.

"If they would discuss a solution to solve this problem then I would go," Aoun said. "If it's only to clash with the leaders there, the front lines are easier and nearer (here in Lebanon)."

Government sources in Muslim West Beirut said the prospects that Hoss and Aoun would be invited to Casablanca were dim.

Aoun suggested that the role of a UN peacekeeping force in south Lebanon should be extended throughout the country and that Arab countries should send units to join it under UN command.

A force of 300 Arab ceasefire observers suggested by league mediators has failed to arrive in Lebanon because the league believes the ceasefire is still not firmly in place.

Asked how long the Christian enclave could survive with the Syrian and Druze blockade in force, Aoun said: "The situation will not continue indefinitely. Today we are waiting for a decision (from the Arab League) but we will certainly do more things."

A fuel shortage has closed 80 per cent of Lebanese factories. Thousands of people in East Beirut have spent much of the full searching for petrol and food.

Aoun declined to confirm or deny reports that his Army had received missiles which could reach Damascus. But he said he would never fire such weapons into Syria.

"My war is in Lebanon. I would not launch them even against military targets (in Syria). Even if I had an atomic bomb I would not use it," said Aoun.

"I am with the sovereignty of Lebanon, not half of it. I am with the total independence of Lebanon, not half of it. I am with the unity of Lebanon, not half of it. This is not a speech but a way of life," he said.

Khaddafi said in an interview on French television yesterday that a Palestinian state and an Israeli state could never co-exist in the Middle East.

"We recognise only one Palestinian state on Palestinian land," Khaddafi told the interviewer for France's TF1 network.

"One Palestinian state in Palestine. The Palestinians, whether they are Arabs or Jews, constitute a Palestinian state."

Asked if co-existence was impossible, he responded: "Impossible, and even the Israelis know that it is impossible."

Arafat has opted for a two-state solution in the Middle East.

Israel continues to refuse to talk to the PLO.

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah called on Sultan Qaboos of Oman today.

Sheikh Saad also received the Amir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, King Hussein of Jordan and Arafat.

Rebels reject Soviet invitation

ISLAMABAD, May 23. (Agencies) Pakistan has suggested the Soviet Union resume talks with Afghan rebels for a political settlement in war-torn Afghanistan. But the Afghan rebel faction based in Iran has rejected an invitation to visit Moscow.

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan made the proposal to parliament's upper house, the Senate, at the start of a foreign policy debate.

He said the Soviet Union, which backs the Afghan government of President Najibullah, must "take account of the facts and realities of the Afghan situation and resume dialogue with the mujahedeen (rebels) to achieve a peaceful and political settlement."

Moscow previously made contact with Afghan rebels based in Pakistan and Iran last December and January, before withdrawing troops from Afghanistan under UN-brokered accords.

But the Western-backed rebels in Pakistan later said they would not talk to Moscow until it stops aiding the Kabul government with which they refuse to talk or share power.

Moscow's Ambassador to Kabul, Yuli Vorontsov, held talks at the weekend in Tehran with an Afghan rebel coalition based there.

Leaders of the factions based in Iran said today that they had rejected an invitation to visit Moscow, the Iranian Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

The offer extended by Vorontsov "was refused immediately," said Ali Jan Zahedi, spokesman for the eight-party coalition of the mujahedeen based in Iran.

Zahedi did tell a news conference that the Soviet delegation was "more flexible during these talks and they did not insist much on the permanence of the Kabul regime and the need for its participation in Afghanistan's future government."

Zahedi ruled out any negotiations with the Kabul government, noting fighting continued around most major Afghan cities, said IRNA.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's Premier Benazir Bhutto said although rebels attempt to remove Afghanistan's pro-Soviet government by force was a "fundamental mistake" Soviet-backed strongman Najibullah must leave before a consensus government can be formed there.

She hinted the role of the Pakistani intelligence service, which continues to funnel US and other nations' arms to the mujahedeen, may be scaled back.

Najibullah today accused rebel Afghan leaders of making a major mistake in rejecting his peace proposals and said Pakistan was fanning the flames of war in Afghanistan.



King Hassan of Morocco (right) welcomes Libyan leader Col Muammar Khaddafi upon his arrival at Casablanca airport to attend the summit. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tension high in Lebanon

Syrians shelling Christian enclave

BEIRUT, May 23. (AP) Syrian artillery shelled Lebanon's Christian enclave today.

Police said at least three dozen shells fired from Syrian positions in and around Muslim West Beirut hit the Christian-controlled coastline around the ancient port of Byblos, 19 miles (30 kilometres) north of the capital.

The shelling, which caused no casualties or serious damage, was aimed at preventing ships carrying arms and food to the estimated one million Christians besieged in their 310-square-mile (800-sq-km) enclave.

Christian military units, along with opposing Syrian forces and Druze Muslim militiamen, were reported to be resupplying artillery and rocket batteries today for a widely anticipated eruption of major fighting.

"No one's making a secret of it," said a police spokesman, who cannot be named under standing regulations.

The Syrians have continued to shell the Christian-held coast north of Beirut daily despite a May 11 ceasefire called by the Arab League.

Syrian soldiers were observed over the weekend unloading howitzer shells, rockets and mortar rounds from dozens of trucks along the sand coast of Muslim West Beirut and the southern suburb of Khaldah where their artillery batteries and rocket launchers are deployed.

Witnesses, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Syrian-backed militiamen of Druze warlord Walid Jumblatt's Progressive Socialist Party have also stocked large quantities of artillery ammunition at recently constructed underground depots in Syrian-policed West Beirut.

The command of Christian Army Commander Gen. Michel Aoun and that of the Lebanese forces right-wing Christian militia were also resupplying their barracks and artillery emplacements with ammunition.

A Christian source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Christians also were stockpiling on food, drinking water and fuel supplies.

'Cairo using Nimeiri'

Mahdi blasts Egypt

KHARTOUM, May 23. (Reuters) Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi accused neighbouring Egypt yesterday of using ousted dictator Jafar Nimeiri, living in exile in Cairo since 1985, to undermine his government.

Commenting on remarks by Nimeiri published recently in Qatar's Al Raya newspaper, Mahdi also criticised Cairo for refusing repeated requests for Nimeiri's extradition.

Egypt maintains that Nimeiri, overthrown in a military coup in April 1985, qualifies for political asylum. Sudan wants him handed back to stand trial on charges carrying the death sentence.

"There are certain sections of Egyptian authorities that are using him (Nimeiri) against democracy in Sudan," Mahdi told reporters.

My war is in Lebanon. I would not launch them even against military targets (in Syria). Even if I had an atomic bomb I would not use it," said Aoun.

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Jewish violence soars

Antifada is the response

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 23. (Reuters) As Arab anti-Jewish violence has crossed Israel's green line border from the occupied territories Israeli civilians have begun striking back in kind with the tools of the 17-month-old revolt — stones, petrol bombs and burning tyres.

The death of an Arab driver hit by a rock in Israel is the most serious in a rising trend of violent incidents against Palestinians, what analysts call an "antifada" response to the Palestinian intifada (uprising).

"This is an expression of anger and frustration. We are going to see more of it," said Reuven Gal, a psychologist who studies effects of the uprising on Israeli society.

Police suspect the West Bank villager struck on the head last Monday by a rock near Kiryat Gat in southern Israel was the victim of random stoning by Jews.

Israeli youths have almost daily stoned Arab cars from the occupied Gaza Strip near the Israeli coastal cities Ashdod and Ashkelon since the body of Army paratrooper Avi Sasportas, believed kidnapped and killed by Arabs, was found his month.

This week Palestinians who succeeded in escaping enforcement of a general strike in the Gaza Strip to go to work in Israel were stopped by a wall of burning tyres — lit by Jews' south of Ashkelon.

Anti-Arab tension reached such a pitch that Ashdod Mayor Zvi Zilker asked 20 Palestinian merchants not to come to a weekly open market. He said he also hopes to replace the 80 Gaza municipal workers with Israelis.

Confrontations between Palestinians and Jewish settlers in the West Bank have soared in the past two months.

Settlers in the Hebron now commonly smash car and shop windows when they are stoned, and at times open fire.

In Ariel settlement residents have driven convoys into nearby Arab villages, stoning houses and leaving graffiti warning signs. Last month they threw a firebomb into an Arab store in Bidya.

Even in Maale Adumim just outside Occupied Jerusalem, more a suburb than a West Bank settlement, hundreds of residents stormed through Azyariya village setting fire to cars and trucks on Sunday after Arabs stoned a Maale Adumim car.

The car crashed, injuring a couple and their two babies. Analysts attribute the wave of Jewish violence to the spread of anti-Israel attacks over the green line. Sasportas' killing, the suspected kidnapping of another soldier and a stabbing on Jerusalem's main shopping street this month that killed two.

They also cite accumulated frustration at Israel's inability to end the uprising by force or political means.

"I have the gut feeling that people are reaching some sort of 'threshold,'" said political analyst Mark Heller of the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies.

"Even those whose analytical thinking leads them one way are going another way emotionally."

While the violent trend strikes fear in many Palestinians living near settlements or working daily in Israel, it is also a source of concern to Israelis.

President Chaim Herzog has warned Israelis against taking the law into their own hands, as Jewish settlers demanded a right to deal harshly with crowds of Arab stone-throwers.

Facing rising casualties, some of the 70,000 settlers who live in the occupied Arab territories have sought a vigilante role toward the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule.

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Kuwait aid to intifada largest in Arab world

\$7.6 million last year

By Nirmala Janssen
Arab Times staff

OF the \$20 million donated by Arab countries to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in 1988 to support the Palestinian intifada, Kuwait donated the highest amount — \$6.5 million — in addition to the regular annual contribution of \$1.1 million.

In a press conference held yesterday at the premises of the United Nations Development Project (UNDP) in Kuwait, Giorgio Giacomelli, Commissioner-General of UNRWA said that the agency which was established after the 1948 conflict between Israel and the Arabs to provide relief to 700,000 Palestinian refugees in Jordan, West Bank, Gaza, Syria and Lebanon is running out of emergency funds and might not be able to sustain relief operations.

UNRWA is practically the only inter-governmental organisation in occupied Palestine and it feels a responsibility to assist and protect Palestinian refugees, Giacomelli said.

The regular UNRWA budget which is based on voluntary contributions from countries across the globe is \$230 million with the United States providing \$61 million, the European Commission \$50 million. Other major donors are Italy, Japan and the Nordic countries.

Sixty per cent of the regular budget is spent on education, 20 per cent on health, 10 per cent on food relief to the really needy and 10 per cent on common services and administration.

Giacomelli who arrived on Sunday from fund raising visits to Qatar and the United Arab Emirates said that UNRWA requires in addition to the regular budget \$22 million for emergency relief for both Palestinians and the Lebanese and \$65 million for a three-year refugee camps improvement scheme.

Giacomelli will meet with HH the Amir tomorrow to convey UNRWA gratitude for Kuwait's support and hold further talks.

Elaborating on the problems that the 14,000 relief agency staff in occupied Palestine face Giacomelli said that Israeli soldiers beat up relief workers, invade premises and generally violate the Geneva convention which allows UNRWA the authority to operate schools, health clinics and provide food assistance.

In Lebanon Giacomelli said, local staff are threatened, kidnapped or killed.



Giorgio Giacomelli

Apart from the host countries Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt who took in Palestinian refugees since 1948, seven per cent of the regular UNRWA budget was donated by other Arab countries in 1988 which unfortunately went down to three per cent in 1986.

Two Arab League resolutions were passed in 1986 and in 1988 when all participants accepted the fact that seven per cent of the UNRWA budget would come from the Arab countries, at the level of 1980.

The resolutions have not been put into practice yet but since the beginning of the intifada 18 months ago Arab countries have provided fresh funds.

Besides Kuwait, Iraq has donated \$2.8 million, Abu Dhabi \$3 million, Libya \$2.8 million, Qatar \$2 million and the Islamic Development Bank \$1 million.

Saudi Arabia, through the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organisation contributed over \$6.5 million for a three-year development project in addition to \$1.2 million in regular annual donations.

Giacomelli further said that UNRWA will hold a meeting in Vienna this autumn to allow donor countries to study, plan projects and provide advice and comments on the disbursement of funds.

New university admission policy meets approval

DEAN of Registration and Admission at Kuwait University Dr Mustafa Maarafi has said that the deans committee approved the admission policy of the university for the next academic year 1989/90 during its last meeting.

He added that committee decided to admit 3,000 students into different faculties of the university, 1,500 of them for the science section of SSC and the other 1,500 students from the arts section. The faculty of science will admit 700 students, the faculty of education 530 students, the faculty of arts 470, the faculty of commerce 438, the engineering faculty 330, faculty of law 200, allied health science 130 students, medicine 90 students and

the faculty of sharia 112 students.

Dr Maarafi pointed out that 80 per cent of the admitted students will be Kuwaitis while the remaining 20 per cent will be distributed among non-Kuwaitis according to a certain classification. He added that non-Kuwaiti relatives of the Kuwaiti citizens will be treated as Kuwaiti nationals.

He said that Kuwaiti students who apply for admission at the university should have more than 62.2 per cent of grades at the science section of SSC and 68.4 per cent for students in the arts section. The expatriates should have 90 per cent for arts and 94 per cent for

science. GCC citizens should have 70 per cent at least in both section, Iraqis and Yemenis 85 per cent and 80 per cent for sons of military personnel, he said.

Dr Maarafi said that the registration and admission office will receive applications from students between June 17-21 at the exhibition hall in Khaldiya. The names of admitted students will be announced in the first week of July.

He added that office will also receive applications from students who work in the public sector in order to study their cases according to social research and survey made by the dean of students.

The Kuwaiti students who are study-

ing abroad and want to transfer to Kuwait University can do so if they complete a full academic year in foreign universities with an average of 2.33 points in universities that follow the 4 points system or the equivalent in other systems, he said.

The non-Kuwaiti students studying abroad who want to transfer to Kuwait University should have completed all their studies: primary, intermediate and secondary in Kuwait. They also should complete one full academic year abroad with at least average of 3.5 points system or the equivalent in other systems, he said.

Maarafi pointed out that Kuwaiti graduates of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training can apply for admission at Kuwait University in the majors that are same as theirs provided they get at least 3 points in the 4 points system, 6 points in the 9 points system. The graduates of the health studies from all nationalities can be admitted at the faculty of allied health sciences and nursing provided they get 2.67 points in the 4 points system.

The graduates of the authority who are admitted to the university will not be able to change their majors they were accepted for, he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

No merger

The director-general of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) Dr Ahmad Al Jassar has denied rumours that KISR will merge with the Ministry of Higher Education.

He told a local daily that the minister of Higher Education could not have raised such a proposal and that he knew nothing about this subject.

He added that KISR would remain an independent government institution as deemed instrumental in serving national interests.

Tourist route

THE Kuwait Public Transport Company has announced that it will introduce a new route along the seaford to encourage the public to make full use of the tourist attractions on Arab Gulf Street.

The new route will use double decker buses and a guide will be on each one to give information on the various resorts.

The buses will operate from 5.30 to 11 pm on a loop service beginning near the Green Hill in Ras Salimya and will turn round at the Kuwait Towers. Nominal fares will be charged.

Loans approved

The Credit and Savings Bank approved a total of 148 loans valued at KD 5.836 million last month of which 107 were for new houses. During the same period the bank also disbursed 311 loans valued at KD 6,222,000 to assist in financing marriages.

The bank has so far recovered KD 10.5 million in repayments from loans out of which KD 9.5 million has been assigned to private investors for real estate loans.

WEATHER

HOT summer weather with light to moderate northerly to north-easterly wind and some clouds will appear.

State of sea: Slight to moderate High water: 2.33 am, 12.18 pm Low water: 7.13 am, 6.20 pm

Sunrise: 4.52 am Sunset: 6.38 pm Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 44°C (111°F) Al-Sabab: 39°C (102°F) Falaika: 42°C (108°F)

Minimum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 25°C (77°F) Al-Sabab: 20°C (68°F) Falaika: 30°C (86°F)

Maximum temperatures expected: Kuwait: 44°C (111°F) Al-Sabab: 40°C (104°F) Falaika: 42°C (108°F)

Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 19 per cent Al-Sabab: 28 per cent Falaika: 35 per cent

Diamond dealer kidnapped Kuwaiti

(Continued from Page 1)

Schroyens returned to Belgium while Humaid was still being held. He was expected to appear in court in Belgium for his part in the kidnapping.

The lawyer said Schroyens, Peumans and Doucet travelled to Britain last September and bought handkerchiefs and ski masks before going to the house where Humaid was staying.

Schroyens had an imitation pistol and Doucet used an electronic stun gun to give the victim an electric shock.

During much of the time Humaid was held prisoner he was shackled to a bed and given tablets which made him feel drugged.

He told police that with the stun gun held to the back of his neck he was ordered to record a message to his family asking for the money to be paid into a bank in Spain.

When police swooped on the London house they arrested Peumans and found Doucet hiding in a cupboard.

In April, Rena Linda Yenida,



Anniversary celebration

Friends of Dame Violet Dickson, including British Ambassador, Peter Hinchcliffe, Monday held a party at her home to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Dame Violet's arrival in Kuwait.

Comprehensive information

Municipality preparing 'A to Z' of Kuwait

KUWAIT Municipality is currently involved in preparing a guidebook on the areas of Kuwait and its suburbs, a local daily reported.

It added that the guidebook is to be arranged alphabetically and will contain the necessary data about the country including the names of streets, institutions and other facilities.

It added that the directory, titled "Kuwait Guidebook from 'A' to 'Z'", will be considered a reference for tourists, visitors and diplomats in addition to its importance for citizens and expatriates.

The guidebook is to be set up in accordance with the directives issued by the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, Mohammed Al Sayed Abdulmohsen Al Rifai, the daily said.

The daily also learnt that the GCC General Secretariat had requested Kuwait Municipality to provide it with the necessary studies and designs for internal and feeder roads and the designs of the drainage networks in order to be sent to Muthal al Kubra, Municipality of Oman.

Meanwhile, the municipality has asked citizens who want to carry out their own construction projects to visit the building department of the municipality before contracting with contractors.

A statement issued by the department said that complaints submitted by citizens against contractors who carry out their building projects are increasing which causes financial and technical disputes.

The department is contemplating supervising and organising the sector of small contractors who are not registered at the Central Tenders Committee.

It also gives licences for new buildings and supervises them during construction. It added that the municipality appealed to citizens on several occasions to contract with licensed contractors to protect their interests and rights. Citizens can benefit from instructions and advices of officials of the department in this respect, the statement said.

In another development, the Assistant Undersecretary for Allocation and Application Affairs at National Housing Authority (NHA) Ahmed Samaka was quoted as saying that the authority in compliance

with the instructions of HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah and Chairman of the Higher Housing Council to minimise the waiting period for allocating houses to citizens had started its programme by distributing 2,000 plots in Wafra.

In an interview with a local daily, Samaka called on citizens who wish to have a house either in Khairan or Wafra to register their names with the authority.

He disclosed that a new batch of houses will be distributed at the Qurain area soon in addition to another batch to be distributed in Fintas. The authority will also distribute a number of flats at Sabab Al Salem suburb and Al Sawabir Complex, in addition to about 200 plots at the Qurain area, Samaka said.

Merchants disappointed

Shoppers prefer clothes to gold

GOLD markets in Kuwait are always bustling and full of new and traditional designs. Some customers prefer the Indian workmanship, others would rather buy Bahraini styles. Younger women are attracted towards buying the 18 carat gold which is identical to pure gold in appearance.

Gold merchants said that gold markets have better sales during Eid and marriage seasons. But they pointed out that gold sales declined during the last Eid Al Fitr period, while the clothes market indicated a clear increase in sales.

A local daily toured the local gold market and interviewed a number of salesmen and customers.

Marwan Al Agha, a gold salesman said that the demand for gold is low this year. He believed that people are interested in buying clothes instead, pointing out that customers tend to go to gold shop complexes and not isolated shops. He added that the gold complex at Kuwait's main souq provides car parking spaces and has several gold shops selling a wide variety of gold such as the Indian, Bahraini and Italian types.

Agha hoped for an increase in sales in the near future. He said that most gold merchants are ready for the hike in sales during holiday and marriage seasons.

Another gold salesman, Hassan Nadar said that sales during the past three years Eid seasons were better than this year's season. "This is because people would rather save their money, instead of buying gold," he added.

His shop has an average daily sales figure of KD2,000. "It used to be KD10,000 before," he said. He pointed out that older women prefer to buy 20 and 21 carat gold, but younger women demand the 18 carat gold instead.

He said that gold prices are lower this season because of the dollar price hike.

On the other hand, customer Um Khaled said that gold prices are expensive and that salesmen asked for higher prices based on the type of design.

Um Khaled described the Indian and Bahraini gold as more precise in manufacture and more beautiful. She pointed out that customers could find cheaper prices at the main gold market complex in Kuwait rather than scattered gold shops which tend to charge more.

Another customer, Um Ali said that prices are high every-

where. She added that she couldn't buy the heavy gold because it is more expensive. She was shopping for rings and children's bracelets. She had hoped that price of gold would be cheaper after the Eid holidays.

IN THE COURTS

THE Court of Higher Appeal will today begin its proceedings in the double-murder case in which a laboratory attendant at a government school, Samir J. murdered a young woman and her child and set their apartment on fire in a bid to hide his crime.

The incident took place on Feb 28 last year. Earlier this year, the criminal court, a first degree court, sentenced the criminal to life imprisonment and ordered him to pay KD5,000 as temporary compensation to the woman's husband.

The criminal court based its sentence on eyewitnesses accounts and on the confessions of the defendant during interrogations and later in the court.

The court also heard the testimonies of security men who followed the case and arrested the defendant. The court's verdict was based on its finding that the condition of "premeditation" was lacking.

The court was told that the defendant went to the apartment of the deceased in Salmiya with the intention of committing a sexual crime with her and as he found no response from her, murdered her. The court was also told that the man was under the influence of his "sexual desires" at the time of committing the murder.

The general prosecution was not satisfied with this judgement and appealed to the higher appeal court, stressing that the "premeditation" factor was present. The defendant himself also appealed and demanded acquittal as he claimed that his confessions to the prosecution were taken under pressure.

UMO health seminar

THE United Malayalee Organisation (UMO) conducted a health seminar, the first of its kind, in the Indian embassy hall on May 18. The UMO chairman briefed the audience on the seminar and introduced Dr T.K. Kuruvilla, a consultant physician at the Al Sabab hospital, Dr S. Radhakrishnan, consultant at the Amir hospital and Dr K.C. Aboobacker, consultant at the paediatric section of the Al Sabab hospital to the audience. The general secretary welcomed the specialised doctors and the audience to the seminar.

Dr T.K. Kuruvilla explained in his brief lecture how hypertension, diabetes and uric acid affect the heart. He also described the symptoms as well as the precautions to be taken against heart disease and the food to be avoided.

Dr S. Radhakrishnan explained in his lecture the common gastro intestinal problems such as ulcers and gas formation experienced by a lot of people in



Dr S. Radhakrishnan

Kuwait and means of prevention.

Dr K.C. Aboobacker explained the breathing problems in children which are commonly found in Kuwait.

After the lectures the team of doctors answered all questions put by the audience.

Team spirit needed

Delinquency caused by peer pressure

DR Louis Kamel from Kuwait University Psychology Department has prepared a study on students behavioural problems in which he pointed out that it is difficult to separate students controlled behaviour from the behaviour of the group of youths which he belongs to.

He added that placing larger responsibility on a group leads to disciplinary problems. He said that disputes established from personal relations often are reflected into a form of disciplinary problem.

Kamel gave a number of proposals to achieve discipline and pointed out that urging youths to join work groups is a good method to develop team spirit.

He called upon teachers to build a democratic atmosphere of discipline and to assist students in solving their personal problems. Kamel added that students behavioural problems are the result of a number of factors and that these factors should be explored to find solutions.

Researches conducted in America at a number of high schools revealed that only 10 per cent of students disciplinary problems are due to pure individual factors. On the other hand, 90 per cent of cases require a psychological analysis. He said that despite the fact that researchers do not yet have data on the Kuwaiti school environment, in addition to the difficulty witnessed while generalising previous studies, researchers should not ignore the data accumulated from foreign studies.

He believes that imposing punishment is not necessary in most cases, but achieving self discipline is vital. Teachers are held responsible for the behaviour and growth of students as a team in the classroom. Disputes created by personal relations may lead to discipline problems among adults groups inside and outside the school limits. He added that such disciplines do not represent a challenge to school administration, but reflect the stress and confusion of relations among adults groups, Kamel concluded.

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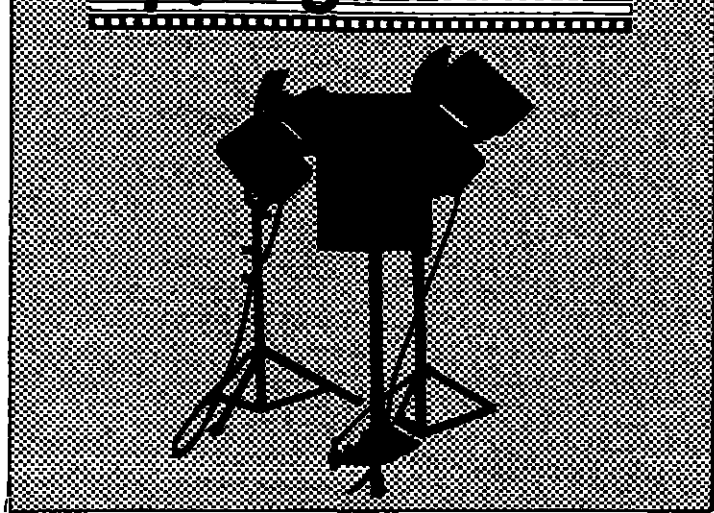
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Cases of maid abuse rising alarmingly

(Continued from Page 1)

Asian diplomats told of a Sri Lankan girl burned in 46 places with a heated iron rod by an employer, and of another Sri Lankan maid who was not paid for four years.

In Kuwait last year, a woman was sentenced to five years' hard labour for killing her maid. Death was attributed to "complications from brutal torture and utter lack of treatment of injuries."

In April, Rena Linda Yenida,

a Filipina, was executed in Riyadh for suffocating the baby girl she was tending. She also attacked the girl's mother and younger brother with an iron bar after they accused her of stealing money.

Asian diplomats are alarmed by these cases, but noted that the majority of women from their countries who work in the Gulf are not abused.

"The brutal treatment of maids has increased in the last four to five years," the Arab Times reported recently.

"Apparently, hiring a maid has become fashionable and a status symbol — and beating maids a pastime."

Diplomats said known cases of abuse have risen with the big influx of Filipinas and Sri Lankans seeking jobs in recent years.

Some employers are culturally ill-prepared to deal with women from a different society, an Indian diplomat noted.

Official estimates vary on the number of Asian maids in the Gulf. Kuwait's Higher Council for

Planning estimated there are 196,000 maids in the tiny country.

The Philippines Ambassador to Kuwait, Alunan C. Glang, said about two-thirds were Filipinas. But he said only 7,000 of them are legal residents.

"More than 40 maids arrive in Kuwait without proper documents every day," he said.

Complaints from maids include squalid conditions, beatings, non-payment of wages, sexual assault and lack of food, diplomats said.



Amir meets governors

His Highness the Amir Tuesday received Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah and governors of Jahra, Farwaniya, Hawalli and Ahmadi. Each governor was accompanied by five citizens of his governorate to discuss with HH the fulfilment of their demands. HH told them the government is very keen to exert effort to provide each citizen with all basic needs in the various governorates through setting special councils and funds.

Naqeeb confirms decision on school nurses

DR NAEL AL NAQEEB, public health undersecretary has ruled out the possibility of reversing the decision to withdraw nurses from secondary schools. However, the official left open the probability of withdrawing nurses from intermediate schools.

Speaking to an Arabic daily yesterday, Naqib said that the ministry does not intend to appoint nurses at all schools. Meanwhile, Naqeeb told the internal magazine of Kuwait Cancer Control Cen-

tre "Al Muntada" that 95 per cent of cancer cases are treated in Kuwait. The remainder need treatment abroad such as operations related to transplanting bone marrow. These operations which were previously being performed in Kuwait, were discontinued due to their high costs. Nevertheless, the ministry is having second thoughts of undertaking 100 per cent of cancer operations in Kuwait, the official said.

He added that chemical treatment of cancer in Kuwait is being developed con-

tinuously and a separate building for chemical treatment of cancer is intended to be established.

Even though a comprehensive survey to discover cancer cases in Kuwait, is quite expensive, serious consideration for undertaking such a study is underway.

The official disclosed that a Kuwaiti citizen Yacoub Behbehani had contributed to build a centre for cancer chemical treatment. He also said that the transplant of organs in Kuwait can be

developed provided the number of donors increase. This development, could provide the transplants of liver and kidney, Naqeeb added.

Recovery from cancer greatly depends on early diagnosis and treatment, Naqeeb said and added that the information unit at the cancer control centre have begun distributing publications which assist women in medically self-examining their breasts for any indications of cancer, the official added.

Eid greed Vegetable prices dropping

CUSTOMERS at the vegetables and fruit market in Shuwaikh said that the hike in the prices during the period of Ramadan was pure commercial operation directed at gaining fast profits without considering the co-operative and generous atmosphere during the holy month.

They added that the drop of vegetable and fruit prices witnessed by the market now shows the greedy commercial practices of merchants during the holy month of Ramadan and Eid holidays.

The price of melon has dropped from 750 fils a kilogramme to 200 fils, on the other hand, tomato prices have dropped dramatically from KDI a kilogramme to 750 fils for a whole box full of tomatoes. Oranges dropped from KDI 2.250 down to KDI 1.500 per box.

Merchants said that the huge amounts of Kuwaiti grown vegetables played a large part in reversing prices and at the same time created a decline in prices. Customers prefer to buy Kuwaiti grown vegetables because they are fresher.

Ahmad John, a merchant said that prices have obviously declined. He added that most merchants don't depend on individual customers, but rely on selling to co-operative societies which buy in tons.

He pointed out that the Kuwaiti production of most available vegetables and fruits put pressure on imports and is able to limit their prices.

Yusra Elm Al Deen who works as a salesman at the market said that all types of fruits and vegetables are available at the market and that there is no comparison between prices during Ramadan and now.

Meanwhile, consumers unanimously pointed out that prices are lower these days and that the Kuwaiti production is of high quality. They expressed frustration over the phenomena of price fluctuation.

Abu Fayed said that it is obvious that prices face a constant fluctuation. He pointed out that salesmen vary in their prices despite the fact that they sell the same type of commodity.

Mubarak audiences

KUWAIT, May 23, (KUNA): Minister of Information Sheikh Mubarak Al Hamed Al Sabah Tuesday received Canadian Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence T. Dickenson.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged cordial talks and bilateral relations, particularly in information spheres.



A view of the seminar.

Child nurturing seminar opens

KUWAIT, May 23, (KUNA): A two-day symposium on ways of nurturing the child before the primary school stage opened here today, at the Kuwait Plaza Hotel.

The symposium, organised by the Kuwait University's Centre for Community Service and Continuous Education, is held under patronage of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister's wife, Sheikhha Latifa Al Fahd.

Participants include representatives of all state

institutions concerned with child care and education, including the Kuwait Society for Advancement of Childhood.

Research papers tackling problems related to environment of the child, methods of bringing him up, with particular emphasis on foreign governesses in Kuwait, will be discussed.

Organisers hoped the symposium would give parents a better idea about childhood problems and means to encounter them.

Exams are a serious matter

High school examinations begin

KUWAIT, May 23, (KUNA): Minister of Education Anwar Al Nouri Tuesday visited high school examination committees that started work today.

Nouri was quoted as saying in a press statement after concluding his tour "I hope that students will achieve good results."

The education top official added that the examinations constitute a serious turning point in the lives of the students.

He added that the examinations had been designed to test the students capabilities in dealing with the curriculum and those who set up the examinations questions were not governed by any specific criteria to make such examinations easy or difficult, clarifying that the description of the examination as easy or difficult one was depending mainly on the student's capability towards the comprehending of the prescribed curricula.

Meanwhile, Nouri said that the ministry and the examinations committees were working

seriously towards the provision of the appropriate atmosphere for the students at all the examination centres, noting that such centres had been provided with officials to reply to any enquiries which may arise by the students during the examination.

Replying to a question over the examination marking period, the minister said that the ministry intends to give the marking committees a longer period this year for the process in order to avert any mistakes, adding that the results will be announced within four or five days after the examinations have ended. Replying to a question over the grading, the minister said all those who get more than 90 per cent could be considered as outstanding students and deserve honours.

On his tour, the minister was accompanied by the Education Undersecretary Abdulrahman Al Khodari and the Assistant Undersecretary for Information and Students Affairs at the Ministry Abdulmohsen Al Saeed.

Public served Changes mean progress

THE new director general of the General Traffic Department Brigadier Abdul-Hameed Hajji Abdul-Rabeem said that the recent reshuffle of senior posts at the Ministry of Interior aims at developing the performance and work at the different departments.

In his first statement after undertaking his new post the official said that all senior officers of the ministry do not expect to stay in the same posts because periodic reshuffles, will occur according to interests of the work.

Brigadier Abdul-Rabeem who was occupying the post of director general of police and emergency public administration for the last nine years said that he will do his best to serve citizens in his new post.

Meanwhile Undersecretary at Kuwait's Ministry of Interior Major General Yusuf Al Khodari has issued a reshuffle decision appointing Colonel Mohammed Ibrahim Al Mojel as director of Hawalli Immigration Department, Lieutenant Colonel Yusuf Al Ruwaich as director of the Capital Immigration Department, Lieutenant Colonel Abdulaziz Al Jari as director of Al Jahra Immigration Department.

Regular checks

Students have good atmosphere

THE ministry has terminated the services of four teachers for giving private lessons to students after school hours, which is considered an illegal practice under the current ministry code, an official said.

Sulaiman Thamer Al Koh, director of Jahra Education Area told a local paper that the committees formed for preparing facilities for secondary education exams, are ensuring that the exam halls are adequately lit and air-conditioned.

He added that he would make a pre-scheduled number of inspection visits to exams halls on regular daily basis to ensure that everything progressed well and that students were provided with the right ambience to perform well.

He also said that the ministry is planning to strictly enforce its punitive measures against cheating, preventive measures have been taken to prevent any attempts at cheating, the official added.

He ruled out the possibility of exam questions becoming known to students prior to the exams, stressing that the questions were prepared in utter secrecy.

He lauded the level of efficiency of existing teachers in the area, but criticised the lack of interest shown by some parents to follow up the progress of their children at school.

He said that special arrangements had been taken to provide girls students with transport to the exam centres. Special security forces had been deployed around the exam centre to keep everything under control, Koh added.

The Minister of Education Anwar Abdullah Al Nouri has said that the ministry is planning to press ahead with the introduction of computer science in its curricular programmes.

Speaking at the prize-giving ceremony of the first computer contest for the current academic year, organised by the ministry at the Training Centre in Jabriya, the official said that computers played a distinguished role in the field of communications and information. There is hardly any discipline that computer technology has not yet invaded, the official added.

Appreciating the important role of computers in modern science and to familiarise youngsters with computers, the ministry is planning to introduce the subject in existing curricular programmes, Nouri said.

Head of the Education Ministry's Department of School Activities, Khaled Al Harban said yesterday thanks to the personal care of HH the Amir given to the various activities of the youth sectors, the future of Kuwaiti youth looks bright.

In an interview with KUNA Tuesday, Harban said that the ministry takes wide interest in investing youth skills, particularly by opening summer clubs for students, who will find a place to spend their leisure time.

He noted that 43 summer clubs will be opened nation-wide.

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Thought for today

ONE doesn't recognise in one's life the really important moments — until it is too late — Agatha Christie, English writer (1891-1975).

Friction in the socialist camp

By William Echikson

THE Powszechny theater's programme was provocative — two one-act plays by Czechoslovak playwright Vaclav Havel.

Founder of the Charter 77 human-rights group, Mr. Havel is now in prison in Prague serving a nine-month sentence on political charges. This provocation against an East bloc ally becomes complete when Polish Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski attended opening night.

"When the socialist camp was the socialist camp, such a protest was unimaginable," says Andrzej Drawicz, a professor of Soviet affairs in Krakow. "We no longer are all tied together."

The loosening of Soviet control over Eastern Europe has uncovered old frictions. Hungary and Romania are back to fighting over treatment of Transylvania's large ethnic Hungarian minority. Bulgaria persecutes its Turkish minority. The Czechoslovaks and East Germans criticize the Poles and Hungarians respond with barbs against their neighbour's human-rights records.

"If the Soviets weren't there to stabilize the situation," notes Charles Gati, an East European specialist at the Columbia School of International Affairs, "all these countries would be fighting each other."

Now Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev says that the former satellites are free to do as they please. Although no one knows just how far Moscow would permit its allies to go, the East Europeans are stretching the limits. They no longer even pay lip service to "proletarian internationalism," the theory behind East Europe's former common face.

"All these disputes are emerging because of Gorbachev," says Jan Jozsef Lipkai, a key adviser to the recently relegalized Solidarity trade union. "Moscow no longer uses such a strong hand."

Two major opposing blocs are taking shape within Eastern Europe. On one side stand the reformers in Hungary and Poland, promoting glasnost (openness) and perestroika (restructuring). On the other side stand what Professor Gati calls "the Gang of Four": the hard-liners — East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and Romania.

The two camps disagree on basic political and economic matters. Top-level Poles and Hungarians don't hesitate any longer to say they are moving toward Western-style democracy and to criticize their neighbours, who continue totalitarian abuses.

In a dramatic move at the March session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Hungary voted to condemn Romanian mistreatment of minorities.

Poles and Hungarians also say openly that the socialist trade organization Comecon is useless, because they want market reform while other members stick with state control. Both reformers have already joined the Western-dominated International Monetary Fund and the World Bank — and are flirting with the idea of applying to the European Trade Association whose members include Sweden, Austria, and Switzerland.

"Now that it's possible to criticize, it's only normal that our different interests make us speak up against Czechoslovakia and East Germany," argues Jacek Czaputowicz, leader of Poland's Freedom and Peace Movement.

War is unthinkable among the old enemies in Western Europe because rival nationalisms were reconciled by basically voluntary accommodation. Moscow's domination has worked against a similar process in the East.

We East Europeans "believe that the Soviets are responsible for all our tragedies," remarks Krystyna Kersten, an independent Polish historian. "Until we overcome this extremely strong feeling of being victims in our minds, it will be difficult to have 'normal' relations with other countries."

While supporting reform at home, Gorbachev's position toward quarrelling East Europeans remains ambiguous. Soviet officials say their No. 1 goal in Eastern Europe is peace and stability. An explosion there could torpedo his own domestic reforms. This goal has long meant refusing to either insist on leadership changes or push for reform from his recalcitrant allies. backward-looking septuagenarians still rule the "Gang of Four."

"Gorbachev needs some time," says Petr Uhl, a leading Czechoslovak dissident. "He isn't ready to force changes here which could prove destabilizing."

Signs

Small signs are emerging that Gorbachev's hands-off policy is changing. Soviet officials calculate that they need reform-minded allies, first to prevent mounting discontent among Eastern Europeans themselves, and second to reinforce their own reforms. Significantly, talk of leadership changes can be heard these days in both East Berlin and Prague.

Gorbachev meanwhile has embraced the leaders of his two most reform-minded allies, Poland's Wojciech Jaruzelski and Hungary's Karoly Grosz. He visited Poland for five days last summer, and praised General Jaruzelski.

Speaking to the Hungarian Grosz, the Soviet leader disavowed the 1956 Soviet invasion and declared his wish to remove all Soviet forces from Hungary. Prime Minister Grosz subsequently reshuffled some hard-liners out of the ruling Politburo, thus strengthening the position of reformers.

Poles say recent signs from Moscow encouraged their own government to criticize the Czechoslovak leadership over its handling of the playwright Havel.

"The Czechs and East Germans are easy targets. They're isolated from Moscow," says Solidarity advisor Lipkai. "We can (verbally) attack them because it helps Gorbachev attack his own conservatives at home."

So far, the hard-liners aren't giving in to the pressure. Czechoslovakia officially protested Prime Minister Rakowski's attendance at the Havel opening. In both Czechoslovakia and East Germany, officials point to economic difficulties in the Soviet Union, Poland, and Hungary, and say that perestroika only leads to disaster.

1989, The Christian Science Monitor.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1612 — Sweden's King Gustavus II loses Elfsborg and Gulesberg to the Danes
- 1689 — Holy Roman Emperor Leopold I signs treaties of alliance with Holland and Bavaria.
- 1890 — Italy reorganises her Red Sea territories as colony of Eritrea.
- 1900 — Britain annexes Orange Free State in Africa.
- 1941 — German battleship Bismarck sinks British battle cruiser Hood in North Atlantic in World War II and more than 1,300 lives are lost.
- 1962 — London conference of Barbados, Windward and Leeward Islands ends with proposals of "little eight" to form New West Indies Federation.
- 1964 — Riot erupts at football match in Lima, Peru, and 300 spectators lose their lives.
- 1972 — United States and Soviet Union agree to project to put US and Soviet spacemen in orbit together by 1975.
- 1975 — US President Gerald Ford approves two bills providing more than \$400 million to aid resettlement of refugees from South Vietnam and Cambodia.
- 1977 — Soviet President Nikolai Podgorniy is dropped from ruling Politburo without explanation.
- 1981 — Ecuador's President Jaime Roldos Aguilera is killed in plane crash in Andes Mountains near Peru border.
- 1984 — Israel and the United States reject a United Nations proposal for an international peace conference on the Middle East.
- 1988 — Tamil rebels kill eight Indian soldiers in two separate incidents in northern Sri Lanka.

'All great reformers run out of steam' Gorbachev gained points ... and some lessons in China

By Robert Evans

AS Mikhail Gorbachev's blue and white Aeroflot jet headed for Moscow into storm-laden skies over Shanghai last Thursday, the handful of Chinese officials at the airport to see him off grinned in evident relief.

Just an hour earlier an elderly bank clerk, breaking away from a huge anti-government protest on the port city's Nanking Road, in one pithy phrase summed up the Soviet leader's visit billed in advance by both countries as historic.

"He chose a very bad time to come," the man said as cadets from the local Customs Officer's College and journalists from main local newspapers paraded past with huge banners demanding freedom and democracy for China.

Patience

But through four days that would have tested the patience of a lesser leader, Gorbachev kept his eye on the main goal and with a display of political acumen and good humour, emerged unscathed and with some unexpected points won.

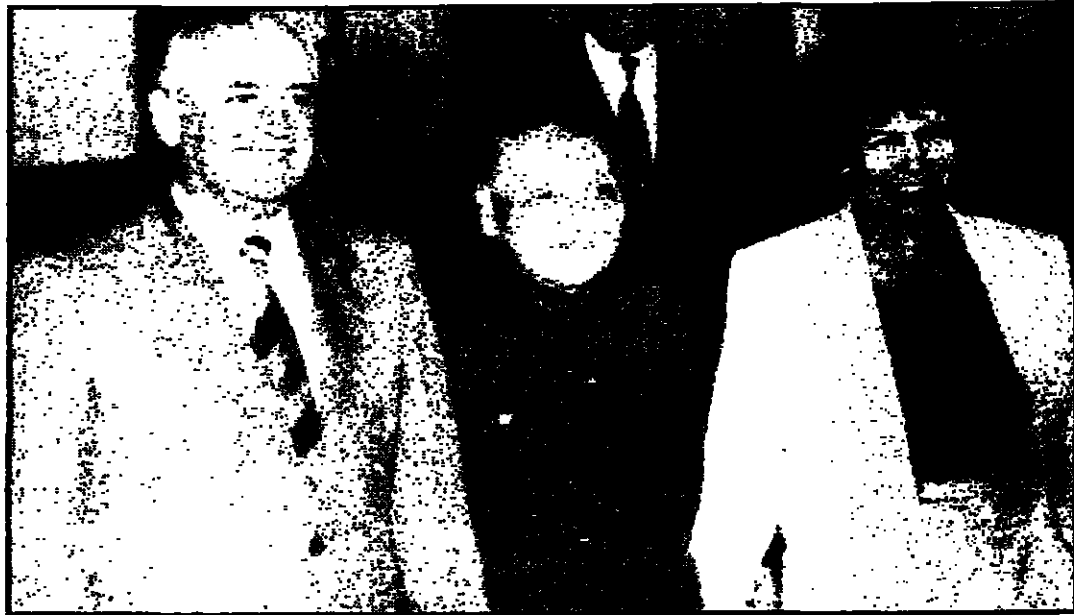
Coinciding with the greatest upsurge of popular displeasure against Chinese rulers since the communist takeover in 1949, the 'great reconciliation' between Moscow and Beijing of the past week was sealed almost unnoticed.

Gorbachev, who over his four years at the Kremlin helm, has captured headlines world-wide with his dramatic domestic political reforms and foreign policy initiatives, found himself off centre stage in Beijing by China's rebellious students.

"Well, the visit was only symbolic anyway," said a senior Soviet official philosophically. "Everything that was done here was prepared in advance and all Gorbachev was doing was putting the seal on it."

Nevertheless, the formal handshake between the Kremlin chief and China's senior leader Deng Xiaoping in the imposing setting of the Great Hall of the People on would clearly have impressed the world more forcefully at any other juncture.

One Soviet diplomat said Moscow had foreseen



Mikhail Gorbachev and wife Raisa with Chinese leader, Deng Xiaoping, in Beijing during the Russian leader's recent visit to China.

possible embarrassment for the Chinese authorities in the week before the visit, the first Sino-Soviet summit in these decades of bitter squabbling, and had offered to postpone it.

"They said no. They were the hosts and there was no reason for us not to respect their wishes," he added. "In the end, it didn't turn out too badly, for us at any rate."

Range

Initially, the students and their supporters from across the whole range of Chinese society proclaimed Gorbachev and his 'perestroika' programme that is changing the face of the Soviet

Union as an inspiration for their movement.

But within two days of his arrival, Gorbachev was all but forgotten, although his programme had to be drastically chopped and changed to keep him away from the huge throngs on Beijing Tiananmen square and in central Shanghai.

A Shanghai intellectual among demonstrators on people's square offered an explanation for the swing. "Now he's made friends with our leaders, he won't want to offend them by showing any sympathy for us," he said.

That thought may not have been far from Gorbachev's mind, and in one remark reported by Soviet

spokesman Gennady Gerasimov he suggested the students had something in common with 'hot-heads' at home who wanted his reforms to go faster.

Almost unnoticed, he obtained Chinese agreement to one of the points Beijing officials had adamantly argued before the visit would not be conceded — the effective renewal of links between the two communist parties.

Sealed This was sealed not only in the meeting with the 84-year-old Deng, whose departure from all positions of power the 'democracy movement' has been seeking, but also in talks with Communist Party General Secretary Zhao Ziyang.

On the state and government level, where China had accepted that normalisation would be sealed at the summit, he also established good personal contact with Prime Minister Li Peng and President Yang Shangkun.

The four represent the spectrum from reformist to conservative views in the top Beijing leadership. "Whoever emerges on top from the political struggle that's under way here, Gorbachev will know him now," a Soviet official said.

All four meetings, Gorbachev told a news conference, had been marked with such friendly discussion even of issues on which the two countries still differed "that I felt the past 30 years had never happened."

The Soviet leader refused to express a public view on the protests that disrupted his visit, declaring he respected the Chinese people and would not presume to act as judge over their actions.

"But there must be one lesson that he will have taken back to Moscow from what happened here this week, and particularly as far as Deng Xiaoping is concerned," said a Communist affairs analyst in Beijing.

"And that is that all great reformers, as Deng was in his time, run out of steam and really should remember — don't hold on to power when your tide has ebbed and retire in time." (Reuters — Beijing).

Little to celebrate about in war-torn Sudan

By Francis Mdlongwa

A DOZEN naked children danced in the moonlight to the compulsive rhythm of drums, chanting: "This is our land...we will not leave our land."

But there was little to celebrate in Kongor, a rebel-held town of 50,000 people in southern Sudan, which according to one resident, is sliding back into the stone age, leaving its inhabitants at the "mercy of nature."

The children's midnight party this week was to mark the sixth anniversary of a rebellion by guerrillas of Colonel John Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The SPLA has held Kongor, where Garang was born, since the war started on May 16, 1983.

The rebels have recently scored a string of military victories in their fight to end what they regard as the domination of mainly Christian and animist southern Sudan by the Arab and Muslim north.

The SPLA has captured more than a dozen towns since February and now the whole of southern Sudan east of the White Nile and south of the River Sobat is in rebel hands.

Some 250,000 people live in Kongor and the surrounding district, 250 km (150 miles) north of the southern capital Juba, but their lives have been devastated by the fighting.

Kongor's 17 schools and six health clinics have been closed since 1983 and its shops, cattle dips and boreholes have been abandoned.

To make matters worse, a third of the district's estimated 1.7 million cattle drowned in floods last year and most of its crops were washed out.

"We will have to live like our forefathers did centuries back. Things are just getting worse all the time," Gabriel Deng, one of the residents, told visiting journalists.

Several townspeople brushing their teeth with sticks crowded round to listen

and nearby old men huddled together smoking leaves from a wild tree.

Children played in the dirt, their bodies smeared with ashes to protect them from mosquitoes in this malaria-infested town.

Atem Yaak, the local representative of the SPLA's Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association, said: "We simply leave the ill people to the mercy of nature. In the case of serious diseases such as malaria, our people use herbs."

Thanks to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Kongor will this year probably be spared the famine that last year killed an estimated 250,000 people in Southern Sudan.

The United Nations, which together with the ICRC and other aid agencies is rushing food to the hungry in southern Sudan, says 100,000 more people could starve to death this year unless help reaches them in time.

Since March, the ICRC has flown 600 tonnes of maize into Kongor from Kenya

and Uganda and has embarked on a campaign to inoculate children against killer diseases.

It has also launched a drive to vaccinate the cattle herds of Kongor's Dinka tribesmen against rinderpest — milk and beef provide the traditional mainstay of their diet.

"Some of the people here have no food at all, but the situation is not that critical (compared to other towns in southern Sudan). Some children are malnourished but this could also be a result of diseases," said Claudia Azzolini, the ICRC's chief delegate in Kongor.

This correspondent saw only a handful of malnourished children during a tour of villages around Kongor — their pot bellies bulging from kwashiorkor, a condition caused by lack of protein in their diet.

The ICRC hopes to move another 1,000 tonnes of food into Kongor over the next three months despite the heavy rains that threaten to close its muddy

airstrip. "We will just have to try our best to fly in the food. We can't leave a country at war," Azzolini said.

The ICRC is also distributing maize and vegetable seeds and hoes.

But 28-year-old Deng, who works as a food warehouse manager for the ICRC, said: "The food is not enough and the people cannot cultivate while they are hungry."

Besides Kongor, the Geneva-based ICRC is supplying food aid to eight other towns in both rebel and government-held areas of southern Sudan.

Wounded

The ICRC also flies wounded SPLA fighters and civilians needing surgery to its hospital in Lokichokio, in northwestern Kenya, set up especially to help victims of the Sudanese civil war.

The ICRC's food aid effort, launched last December, has cost \$2.7 million so far, and it has budgeted a similar amount for its operations to the end of July.

Yugoslavia faces growing instability

IN the centre of the Yugoslav capital's chic, newly completed pedestrian mall lies the Yugoslav equivalent of Rome's famous Trevi fountain.

But rather than coins, the Belgrade version is clogged with multi-coloured paper dollar notes, a graphic symbol of Yugoslavia's spiralling inflation and its slide toward economic chaos.

"It used to be you bought a basket of food with your dinars," one Belgrade worker joked bitterly. "Now it takes a basket of dinars to buy a bit of food."

Crisis

Compounding the worst crisis in Yugoslavia's post-war history is the problem of Kosovo, a backward, autonomous province in the south where nationalist riots by ethnic Albanians flared in March, killing 24 by the official count and as many as 140 unofficially.

Despite the urgency of the situation, Yugoslav authorities have been unable to get a grip on either nationalism or economic decline. Together they threaten growing instability and even a return to marital law, Yugoslav and western analysts say.

Before Yugoslav leader Josip Broz Tito died in 1982, this communist but independent nation was touted as an example of how communism can work.

Its "workers' self-management" concept put employees in charge of the factories, and its eight major nationalities and dozen smaller ethnic groups seemed to have found a way to live in peace with each other, even if not in perfect harmony.

But with workers running the factories, production declined, and even massive infusions of Western credits failed to make Yugoslav goods competitive on the world market.

More than 6 million of Yugoslavia's 23 million citizens are unemployed, inflation is approaching 500 per cent and accelerating, and the country is \$21 billion in debt to the West.

Amid mounting criticism of its handling of the crisis, the previous government of Branko Mikulic resigned, the first government to step down since down the communist takeover in World War II.

New Prime Minister Ante Markovic, 64, a liberal from Croatia widely respected as an economist, announced an almost completely new cabinet and on March 17 promised a radical programme of reforms. They include a free-market economy, an end to state subsidies for companies losing money and a banking system along Western lines.

But the cautious optimism among Yugoslavs that finally there was someone at the helm with the prestige, political backing and will to carry the reforms was short-lived.

Five days later, the rioting broke out in Kosovo over the Serbian Republic's decision to regain political control over its autonomous province. Ethnic rivalries again became the centre of attention.

"That may have had a poisoning effect on the positive aspects of the reform," said one veteran Western diplomat.

"The kind of differences that have been provoked over the past few months cannot make it easier from him to build the coalitions he needs.

When the government declared a state of emergency in Kosovo and army troops moved in with tanks, trucks and even anti-aircraft guns, the province practically turned into another Northern Ireland.

Bombings and sabotage are reported with increasing frequency, not only in Kosovo but elsewhere in the country.

Many ethnic Albanian students recently refused to attend school when inoculations against disease were scheduled because of rumours — fiercely denied by school officials — that the vaccine causes sterility.

Tensions

The ethnic tensions are not limited to Kosovo. Slovenia and Croatia, the richest of Yugoslavia's six republics, are calling for more autonomy even as newly consolidated Serbia is trying to extend its influence over the entire country.

The Markovic administration, meanwhile, has put a hold on a package of economic laws adopted by the previous government, delaying their date of implementation from July 1 to next fall.

In addition, the Communist Party is planning a congress in December, nearly a year ahead of schedule, to decide whether to relinquish all power over the economic sphere, a prospect that would make Karl Marx turn over in his grave. (UPI — Belgrade).

Near-total dependence on Soviet roubles

Cuba needs American dollars

By J.D. Gannon

CUBA has a serious problem: It needs American dollars to repay its debt and buy imports. But its main export — sugar — goes to the Soviets who pay in unconvertible roubles.

Cuba is in its fourth year of austerity and economic decline, and one reason is Havana's inability to find Western sources of credit. Such credit is drying up because the government of President Fidel Castro has been unable to obtain the dollars to service its \$6.4 billion foreign debt.

For this reason, Cuba has had to slash imported goods for which it must pay in hard currency — from \$1.2 billion a year in 1984-86 to \$900 million in 1987.

What this means for the average Cuban is that all non-Soviet manufactured goods from buses to entire industrial plants — go unserved much of the time and must run with fewer spare parts. It also means that the widespread Cuban desire for more Western consumer goods has had to remain on hold.

Sugar is king in Cuba, but the world sugar market has been in decline for almost 10 years. The Soviet Union buys more than half of all Cuba's sugar exports at about 40 cents a pound.

The average world price has been 11-12 cents a pound this year, up from about eight cents a

pound last year. Eastern bloc countries are the second largest buyers of Cuban sugar, also at inflated prices and also paid for in currencies worthless outside the Soviet bloc.

Dependence

However, in those cases where some payments are made in goods rather than cash, Cuba benefits. For instance, Moscow often pays for Cuban sugar with Soviet oil. What Cuba doesn't use domestically, it re-exports to Western countries for hard cash.

Oil sales accounted for 40 per cent of all of Cuba's hard currency earned in 1988. Together, oil and sugar account

for 50 per cent of all hard currency earnings.

As a result, Cuba's pre-revolution dependence on the United States has become a near-total dependence on the Soviet Union. Of the 5.4 billion pesos in exports in 1987 — 77 per cent of which was earned through the sale of sugar — 3.86 billion worth went to the Soviet Union.

Of imports totalling 7.61 billion pesos in 1987, 5.49 billion worth came from the Soviet Union. (The official exchange rate is one peso to one dollar; but on the black market, the dollar fetches between five and seven pesos.)

The Christian Science Monitor.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Extortionist demands

SIR: A recent unsigned, circular by the management of the International School of Pakistan, has jolted and badly shaken all parents of the school. The circular demands tuition and transport fees for the first semester April — June, completely ignoring the fact that the tuition fee for the period in question has already been collected by the school as the last term fee just before the final examination.

All parents are obliged to pay tuitions fees within 9 months beginning September to May any year. The fee is normally collected in 3 instalments in the following manner: 1) September — November 2) December — February 3) March — May.

This is nothing but highway robbery. I request the Ministry of Education Kuwait to intervene and save us from this uncalled for theft. We would also like to mention here that this school is only interested in extorting money by hook or by crook and offers little towards academic achievements and other necessities — a pre-requisite in any school today.

The principal of the school lacks administrative skills and incidents of moral turpitude, indisciplin, nepotism and favouritism are on the increase.

Absentism among teachers is rampant, classrooms are suffocatingly over-crowded, while toilets remain filthy and unhygienic.

And the so-called 'English medium' institution is hoarding unqualified, inexperienced and non-English speaking teachers. Transport is also inefficient, irregular, overcrowded and hazardous, and the school authorities are charging KD 72 against the Ministry of Education's clear instructions to charge KD63 per annum.

These are just a few issues out of many. We hope the Ministry of Education in Kuwait, will note these problems.

Concerned parents.

A cry for help

I AM 43 years old, married with 4 children. I have been suffering from a brain tumour for the past one year. The disease was not diagnosed at the early stages and has been discovered, through a variety of tests.

Doctors have advised a brain operation within two months. The operation is expected to cost 30-40 thousand Indian Rupees (Almost \$US3000) which I don't have.

Therefore, I appeal to the people of Kuwait to come to my aid with a helping hand. Insha' Allah, the Almighty God will reward you accordingly.

I have full trust in all of you and hope you will not disappoint me. To save my life means saving my whole family. Kindly do not disappoint me on humanitarian grounds.

I wait for your prayers, and financial assistance.

Abul Hayat Ashraf,

Delhi, India.

Unjustified fees

SIR: If a school finishes its curricula, in six months instead of nine and if you have already paid the tuition fee for the full year and have paid the transport fee for your child till May, would you pay it once more?

The Management of the International School of Pakistan, Kuwait in a recent circular dated 10th May, 1989 is asking parents to pay the above mentioned once again, just because the management has brought forward the session from September to April. Parents of the school are greatly perplexed over this uncalled for demand.

Apparently the school authorities wish to extort money out of parents by hook or by crook caring very little about the education itself. Ever since the unauthorised appointment of the present principal, the standard of education has deteriorated. Worthy teachers are being gradually replaced with unworthy ones. Cases of

truancy amongst teachers is on the increase.

School transport is unsatisfactory and is over charged by KD9/- against the Ministry of Education stipulations. Children remain thirsty throughout the day due to lack of cool drinking water. New books for new syllabus for the 9th, 10th and other classes are still not available and students are forced to pursue the old syllabus without purpose.

All this has been pointed out to the management time and again, but it has fallen on deaf ears. The only thing that the management wishes to remember is "MONEY". Members of the Council are also watching this whole exercise unashamedly, due to personal vested interests. I wonder if the Ministry of Education in Kuwait is aware of the situation.

Name and address supplied

Million demand Li's resignation

(Continued from Page 1)

It said Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang, whose position was jeopardised when he advocated compromise with the students and opposed Li's hard-line stance, would resume his duties.

The report could not be immediately confirmed, but some Western news agencies also reported that Zhao had apparently returned to work after what was reported as a "vacation."

One indication that Li might be in trouble was the first official acknowledgement that the premier was the primary object of demonstrators' anger.

The official Xinhua news agency said one million people took to the streets and "the overwhelming majority of the slogans of the parade were directed against the chief leader of the state council" who is Li.

It reported other slogans said, "withdraw the troops and lift martial law," and "safeguard the constitution and guarantee human rights."

Leading intellectuals from China's most famous think-tank, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, led the protest. They accused Li of staging a military coup in his struggle against Zhao.

Tens of thousands of people also marched through the streets of Shanghai today to demand that Li step down. Marches in the Portuguese colony of Macao and in Hong Kong, a British colony, also were held to support the Beijing protests. Both colonies are scheduled to revert to Chinese rule by the end of the century.

This evening, workers used a large crane to replace a portrait of revolutionary leader Mao Tse-tung on the gate of the Forbidden City across the Tiananmen Square.

Earlier today, two young men had splattered paint on the gigantic portrait of the founder of communist China. Red and black dots marred Mao's chin and smeared between his eyes. Later, workers covered the painting with a green tarpaulin.

Like the previous three nights under martial law, a constant stream of supporters walked, bicycled and motorcycled around the square. The numbers, however, appeared smaller than previous nights when people thronged to the square to demand the students' freedom. They thought was imminent attack from military troops.

Most of the troops that had moved onto city outskirts Friday night have withdrawn to points further away from the city. Residents removed many of the barricades they had set up to block a troop advance into the city.

Also today, the government lifted a ban on satellite transmission of television news reports of the protests. The ban had been part of the martial law order, which has rendered virtually ineffective by the huge crowds in the square and streets.

The students decided earlier today to continue their occupation of the square even though thousands of demonstrators had returned to their schools. "I voted that we should go back because many of the Beijing students are already leaving," said Gus Hailong, a student leader from Beijing University. "But the student union insists on struggling until the end. They want to see the government fall."

Chinese leaders embroiled in a bitter power struggle huddled in secret today to debate withdrawal

ing troops from around Beijing to end a four-day standoff with pro-democracy demonstrators, Chinese sources said.

The meeting was held at an undisclosed site.

Public signs conflicted as Chinese leaders met at an enlarged meeting of the Communist Party's ruling politburo, convened to determine their course, the sources said.

But Deng and Li Peng, backed by party conservatives, appeared to be losing ground against moderates supporting Zhao Ziyang and an avalanche of popular opposition to the decision to call out the Army in Beijing.

None of the leaders has been seen in public since Saturday, when Li declared martial law in Beijing after days of mass pro-democracy demonstrations swept the entire nation, the greatest defiance of the government since its founding in 1949.

The official Xinhua news agency, which since Saturday had toed the government line, issued an unusually frank report on the afternoon protest and said "the overwhelming majority of the slogans were directed against the chief leader of the state council."

It was the first time in memory Xinhua had reported that slogans were directed against a specific leader.

In Washington, Wan Li, chairman of the National People's Congress, the nominal Parliament, and a politburo member, announced he cut short a US trip and returned home.

Among its functions, the effectively rubber-stamp Congress ratifies decisions on changes in ranking government officials.

With the citizens' barricades drawing hundreds of thousands of people onto the streets each night to await an Army advance, already sparking clashes with the soldiers, Deng was under pressure to have them pull back, Chinese sources said, quoting party officials.

State-run television, on its evening news, interviewed a People's Liberation Army major in one of the stalled convoys around the city who indicated the troops were told to ease the tension.

Tolerant

"Being military men, we must have obeyed orders, but we are not going to shoot the people," the unidentified major said. "We have taken a tolerant attitude. We withdrew a little today."

At a news conference tonight, local officials said 83 people were injured and 10 people arrested in clashes in the Fengtai district of southwest Beijing when soldiers used truncheons to beat back protesters trying to block an Army convoy from moving.

Ye Shanshi, a district government deputy chief, said 60 of the injured were soldiers, four hurt seriously. Eleven were students. Reporters were shown a military compound where demonstrators had broken windows and destroyed a room. But Ye was conciliatory, saying people other than the students started the trouble.

Beijing television also reported one Army officer was killed in an unrelated traffic accident. Reports of simmering unrest and large troop movements in China's provinces reached Beijing today.

China's rebelling students at first asked only to talk to the government as equals. Now they want the government to fall.



Student protesters block the path of a person (centre facing) who they say defaced the huge portrait of the late Chairman Mao yesterday. Three people were apprehended. (Reuter wirephoto)

ARAB TIMES Review



The huge portrait of the late Chairman Mao was defaced with paint yesterday. The world famous portrait hangs over Tiananmen Square and is one of Chinese communism's most sacred icons. (Reuter wirephoto)

Power struggle in China Skeletons

BEIJING, May 23, (UPI): The power struggle being fought by Chinese leaders has exposed a lie put forth for more than a decade by some of the world's most powerful men: that after years of agony, they had learned how to live with each other.

Between April 15, when former Chinese Communist Party leader Hu Yaobang died, and May 19, when Premier Li Peng called out the Army to put down pro-democracy protests, China's leadership was threatened by little more than peaceful public criticism.

Yet paralysis in the leadership, lacking either the sensitivity to deal with the people's discontent or the iron will to stamp it out, now has drawn out underlying disputes over the nation's direction in a battle that makes the street protests a public sideshow.

Since the end of the Cultural Revolution in 1976 and China's opening to the world a few years later, party leaders have vowed that the factional struggles that closed the country and brought it to the brink of economic ruin would never be repeated.

They took the pledge to swear off the Mao Tse-tung days, when political defeat could mean jail or a bullet in the head. Many foreigners bought it. Chinese always have known better.

"They always use these incidents for power struggles, to get rid of someone or settle old accounts," said a dissident who had predicted the recent protests would spark such a battle. But he acknowledged the struggle's intensity surprised him.

Analysts agree that most Chinese leaders are to some degree committed to the free-enterprise economic reforms launched by Deng Xiaoping in the late 1970s. The changes, coupled with increasing foreign contact, have improved the lives of most Chinese.

But the leaders have differed sharply on the pace and scope of the reforms. Li favours stability over the economy's often break-neck speed of growth and diversity, while Communist Party general secretary Zhao Ziyang advocates bolder reforms.

They also are split over political reforms intended to open China's hidebound system of decision-making so it would be less subject to the whim of whoever holds power.

But power remains the name of the game.

In the past two years, unwelcome results of the economic liberalisations — record inflation, widening income gaps and rampant official corruption — have fuelled public discontent at the same time political reforms have bogged down.

With no means to redress grievances and without a free press, Chinese found a spark in the student democracy protests, ultimately lighting a fuse under what Chinese leaders have long been terrified of — widespread social unrest.

That has provided an opportunity for a realignment of what had appeared to be a stable coalition.



A student protester holds up a caricature of Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng during demonstration in Tiananmen Square. (Reuter wirephoto)



Workman hurries to drape the huge portrait of Mao after it was defaced by several people with paint. (Reuter wirephoto)



Student protesters continue to keep watch at the entrance to Zhongnanhai, the Communist Party headquarters compound. Prime Minister Li's inability to enforce martial law has loosened his hold on power. (Reuter wirephoto)

South Korea

SEOUL, May 23, (AP): About 200 people were arrested after the government deployed some 10,000 riot police today to block protests by radical students calling for the expulsion of US troops from South Korea.

Thousands of riot troopers in green combat fatigues blanketed the centre of Seoul, standing guard along main streets and ringing the US embassy and key government buildings.

Students who tried to show up for a rally at city hall were seized and there were no reports of any clashes.

Police headquarters said about 200 radicals had been arrested.

Troopers conducted spot checks on many streets, questioning and searching people and taking away suspects. Police patrols roamed subway stations in the city centre to stop students from gathering.

Radical students staged peaceful campus protests earlier today at 16 colleges in Seoul on the second day of a week of anti-US protests. Students marched or held rallies, but there were no reports of fighting.

Students at Sungkyunkwan University tried to push through lines of riot police, but were held back. Students from the school

staged a protest march dressed as skeletons and microbes to symbolize US nuclear and chemical weapons.

"Drive out the Yankies" and "Down with the dictatorship," protesters chanted.

The Foreign Ministry issued a strong statement today criticising radical students for burning US flags at anti-US campus protests yesterday. Ministry spokesman Chang Hoon said such acts must stop.

"Defaming a nation's flag is a deplorable act," he said.

Student groups called for a week of protests in Seoul and other cities to demand the withdrawal of the 43,000 US troops based in South Korea under a mutual defence treaty. Radical leaders claim the United States helps prop up authoritarian rule.

Other demands include an end to US trade pressure to open South Korean markets to US imports. The radicals also want the United States to apologise for the bloody suppression of a 1980 uprising in the southern city of Kwangju.

South Korean troops put down the uprising in Kwangju, in which at least 192 people died, but radical groups claim the United States masterminded the operation.



A new portrait of Mao is raised by a crane as thousands watch in the front of the Gate of Heavenly Peace last night. The old portrait (upper right) remained draped. (Reuter wirephoto)



A Chinese worker asks a policeman standing guard outside Shanghai government office to join a pro-democracy demonstration yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)



Chinese Army troops smile as their truck turns around and leaves a south-west suburb yesterday. These troops were part of a convoy which has been stalled for the past two days by a human barricade. They returned to their base south of the city. (Reuter wirephoto)

VIDEO CORNER

Destructive attraction

By Shaun Seekins

ITS easy to be wise after the event, but the very literary translation of Choderlos de Laclos' classic novel *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* with Glenn Close and John Malkovich in the plum roles of scheming ex-lovers — the Marquise de Merteuil and the Vicomte de Valmont — might have proved substantially less commercial without the invaluable help of seven Hollywood Oscar nominations. Directed by Stephen Frears and with the screenplay adapted by Christopher Hampton from the highly successful stage play, apart from the London and New York productions, about 40 others are being staged world-wide.

Dangerous Liaisons would have us believe that the powdered and bewigged aristocracy of France were capable of using their seductive powers as a tool of destruction and competition, at least, that is the case with the two leading characters. Merteuil's current lover has left her to marry Cecile de Volanges (Uma Thurman), so she implores Valmont to seduce the girl and spoil her for her future husband. But Valmont already has other play to mind. For no other reason than the challenge of it, Valmont has decided to bed Madame de Tourville (Michelle Pfeiffer), a virtuous and quite married

member of the bourgeoisie. Both the plots become hilariously entangled, but then the unexpected happens: Valmont, the most callous of rogues, falls in love with Tourville. Feeling betrayed by Valmont, the scheming Merteuil turns her venomous anger towards him with fatal results.

Dangerous Liaisons is an exceptional piece of work. The set detail and costume are impeccable; Stephen Frears' direction is suitably lush, and the cast — American accents notwithstanding — is superb. Malkovich, particularly, is mesmerising as the cruel Valmont. His laconic manner and narrow, wolfish face are ideal for this character whose every move is dictated by a manipulative mind.

The *Accidental Tourist* is a bittersweet story about a man who has been cut off from the most basic human feelings. William Hurt plays Macon Leary, an uptight writer whose inherent fussiness makes him the ideal candidate to become "The Accidental Tourist," the reluctant businessman who would just as soon stay at home.

As the story opens, Sarah (Kathleen Turner), Macon's wife, announces that she's leaving him. Their 12-year-old son has died a year previously in a senseless shooting and

she feels there is nothing left between them; Macon had reacted to the tragedy by turning inward and shutting everything, including Sarah, out.

How Macon adjusts to this disruption, in what he desires to be a controlled and efficient life comprises most of the film.

Suddenly deprived of his entire family (except the dog), he retreats to the family house and moves in with his two brothers and sister. This trio of middle-aged eccentrics live in a world all of their own, and as we meet them we realise that Macon's character is inbred.

It's not until Macon meets Muriel (Geena Davis), a free-spirited and outgoing dog trainer, that he is forced out of his shell. She pursues him cheerfully and slowly breaks down his defences, only to have Sarah return and claim to want to resume their marriage. Macon must then decide whether to return to his safe but stilted life with Sarah, or continue his offbeat affair with Muriel.

Agatha Christie's Poirot continues, a new series of Miami Vice starts and at long last the Basketball NBA Playoffs are arriving. The above films are by courtesy of VCI Films/Faraway; Video Nani, Salmiya Complex, Tel: 2432809; and Video Club, Salmiya, Tel: 5724372.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

MORNING

- 9.00 Holy Quran
9.10 Sabah Al Khair
9.15 Falouna: Cartoon Serial (part 5)
9.45 Magazine D'Actualite
10.00 Yaseen Wa Bahiya: Arabic Serial (part 12)
10.45 News summary and varieties
11.00 Al Aswar: Local Serial (part 12)
12.00 News summary and varieties
12.15 Circus
1.00 News Summary
1.05 Holy Quran and Closedown

EVENING

- 4.00 Holy Quran
4.15 The World News via Satellite
4.45 Sherlock Holmes: Cartoon Serial
5.15 Ma'a Al Talaba: Prepared by the School Activity Department at the Ministry of Education
6.15 Nadam: Arabic Serial (part 6). Starring Abdul Majid Majthoub, Mohammed Ibrahim, Muna Wasef, and Nadiya Hamdi
7.30 Varieties
8.00 Al Iskan Wa El Muwatan: Prepared by the Public Authority for Housing
9.00 News in Arabic

KTV 2

- 9.45 Layali Al Hilmiya: Daily Arabic Serial (part 12)
10.45 Wadi Al Ghazlan: Bedouin Serial (part 3), starring Mahmood Saeed, Sabah Jazari, and Adeb Qadoora
11.45 News Summary
11.50 The World News Via Satellite
12.15 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 The Raccoons: cartoon serial
6.30 Mac and Mutley: A programme for young viewers, it takes a look at a dog's parade; how to train dogs and other subjects
7.00 Danger Bay: Covert Operation. Grant and Jonah, who are working on a research project, suspect they are dealing with undercover agents.
7.30 Body Matters: Breathing Space. Doctors talk about how the lungs function and discuss lung diseases.
8.00 News in English
8.40 You and the Law: Presented by Ali Noor.
8.50 Sonny Spoon: Sam's Private Eye.
9.40 The Cosby Show: Lucy

KTV 2

- 10.00 Just for the Record: This is an Australian programme on record holders. Tonight, records are set in the balancing, shooting, and an interview with the oldest woman.
10.30 Late Night Movie: The Stranger. Starring: Edward Robinson, Orson Welles, Loretta Young.
12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

NIGHT CHEMIST

- Kuwait
Al Alamiya Pharmacy
Fahd Al Salem St.
Al Rashid Pharmacy
Ahmed Al Jaber St.
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Qatani Pharmacy
Nagra, Beirut St.
Salmiya and Rasmithiya
Qurtoba Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak St.
Fahadheel and Ahmadi
Al Badiya Pharmacy
Fahadheel, Al Dabous St.
New Kheitan
Al Tasamoh Pharmacy
Ibn Sireen St.

CINEMA

- Al Andalus
Iron Angels II
Starring: Alex Young, Mona Lee
Al Salmiya
Revenge of the Nerds II
Starring: Robert Carridine, Antony Edwards
Al Hamra
Lucas
Starring: Charlie Chan, Karen Hutton
Al Firdous
Sawal (Hindi)
Starring: Shashi Kapoor, Poonam Dhillon
Drive-In
Arees Fi Al Ya Naseeb (Arabic)
Starring: Samir Ghanim, Dalal Abdul Aziz
Fahadheel Open-air
Johnny I Love You
Fahadheel
Arabic film
Jahra
Nuts
Granada
Arabic film
Salaibikhat
1921
Al Jleeb
Clerk
Ahmadi Drive-in
Arabic film

PRAYERS

- Fajr 3.19 am
Zuhr 11.45
Asr 3.20 pm
Maghreb 6.38
Isha 8.07

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Kuwait Science Museum
OPEN Saturday to Wednesday, 8-9 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursday and Friday.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT - Thurs.: 9 am to 12 noon and 7.00 to 10.00 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment. Arabian Gulf St.

Sadu House
SAT - Thurs.: 9 am to 12 noon, 7 to 10 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts — rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

Bangladesh Art Show
UPTO May 27. Bangladeshi artist Monirul Islam will show 45 paintings at the Kuwait National Museum. Islam's paintings revolve around the life of Bangladeshis. Landscapes are also on show. The exhibition will be open from 8.30 am to 12.30 noon and 4 to 7.30 pm. It has been organised by the Bangladesh Association.

FILMS

Children's film
May 24 (6 pm); May 25 (10.30 am). Heidi, a BBC production of one of the most popular children's stories, is set amidst the scenery of the Swiss Alps. It is about Heidi, a young orphan, who is taken to live with her grandfather in the mountains; unexpectedly, she has to leave her beloved mountains and live with a strange family in the city. This children's film will be shown at the British Council, Mansouriyah. Admission is free but it is advisable to reserve seats. Tel: 2515512; 253204.

MUSIC

Kuwait Singers
MAY 24/25 (8.00 pm):

Kuwait Singers presents 'Stage Struck', an evening show of songs from Broadway and the West End at Gulf English School, Salwa. For tickets and reservations contact 5317433/5384873. Tickets KD3.

Musical evening
JUNE 9, at 6 pm: The Indian Musical group 'Octave' will present a grand musical evening at the Indian Arts Circle auditorium. Hindi, Bengali, Tamil and Malayalam songs will be staged by highly talented singers and musicians.

PLAYS

Kuwait Players
May 28 — June 1 (7.30 pm): Kuwait Players will present the last production of the season, a comedy entitled When Did You Last See Your Trouser, at the Universal American School, Salwa. Tickets — KD3. For reservations call 5637088; 5629875.

Konkani Drama
JUNE 15/16 (4.00 pm): Nashibachoo Diva Paloulo, the MAR production's Konkani drama, directed by Prem Kumar will be staged at the Indian Arts Circle. For entry passes contact Raja Stores, Tel: 2412970.

SOCIAL

TKMCE Alumni Association
MAY 24 at 7 pm: TKMCE Alumni Association, Kuwait Chapter is organising a lecture at the Indian Embassy hall. The lecture will be on 'Multiple Stage Flash Distillation Plants' presented by A V Mohanan, the director of distillation plants projects of MEW. All are welcome.

German Week
ON the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Construction Day, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, will hold week-long festivities.

MAY 24-27: German Productions Exhibition: open from 9.30 am to 1 pm (for traders only). Open to the public from 5 to 9 pm, and 9 am to 9 pm on Friday.
MAY 24: Gala German

Night, with entertainment by Joanna and her band; magic by Alexander; followed by German food buffet.

MAY 25 (3 pm): Finals of the Nation's Fun cup tennis tournament; followed by German food buffet. KD 3 per person.

MAY 26 (3-6 pm): International Children's Festival; magic, music, games and food; plus painting competition for children aged five and eight years.

All events will be held at the Regency Palace Hotel. For reservations call the Regency Palace, German booking office — German Embassy — 481030; German School — 564030; German Library, Holiday Inn Hotel, ext. 6096.

Jukebox 5
MAY 25: The Sounds Great production of Jukebox 5, will be presented at the Salmiyah Cinema at 8 pm and also at 5 pm on May 25. For reservations ring 5740256/7 (mornings) and 4 to 7 pm or 5718143 or 5731782. Tickets will be on sale at Salmiyah Cinema Box Office.

Indian Arts Circle
May 25: The IAC will hold a one-hour variety show, followed by a prize-distribution ceremony for the winners of the One-Act Play Competition, recently conducted by them.

The names of the winners will be announced on May 25 at the ceremony, which will be followed by dinner. For reservations call 3904817; 2644863; 3903879; 3920165.

Mando Festival
MAY 26: For the first time in the history of Goans in Kuwait — Kuwait Konkani Kendri (KKK) is going to organise a Konkani Mando Festival at Hotel Meridien starting at 10.30 am. For details please contact 2644983.

Charity Dinner
MAY 29: A fund-raising dinner for refugees in Lebanon will be held for the British charity, MAP, at the Regency Palace Hotel. It has been organised by the Kuwaiti Women's Cultural Society. For reservations contact the hotel.

Seminar

MAY 30: A seminar on the refugee problems will be held by Dr Pauline Cutting and Dr Sweeney, who will be in Kuwait to raise funds for refugees in Lebanon, at the Kuwait Medical Society.

Sultan Gallery

UPTO May 31: Exhibition of painting of the papyrus by Egyptian artist Adam Henein. Opening hours 10 am to 1 pm and 5 to 8 pm at the Thunayan Alghanim Building, Soor Street.

Kuwait-Welsh Society
MAY 31: The annual general meeting of the society will be held on Wednesday at 8 pm. For details call 391-2384; 372-9132; 371-3467; 562-5316.

Get-together

JUNE 16: The Go-Go Club will be having a get-together at the Ramada Al Salem Hotel from 11 am onwards with Stepping Stones and Symphony in attendance. For details contact Raju 2412970 and Tony 2631826 after 3.30 pm.

SPORTS

Swimming and Keep Fit
SWIMMING lessons have commenced at the Holiday Inn which is available for non-members. Monday (6 to 7 pm) separate ladies and mens fit classes with Steve and Chris Hill.

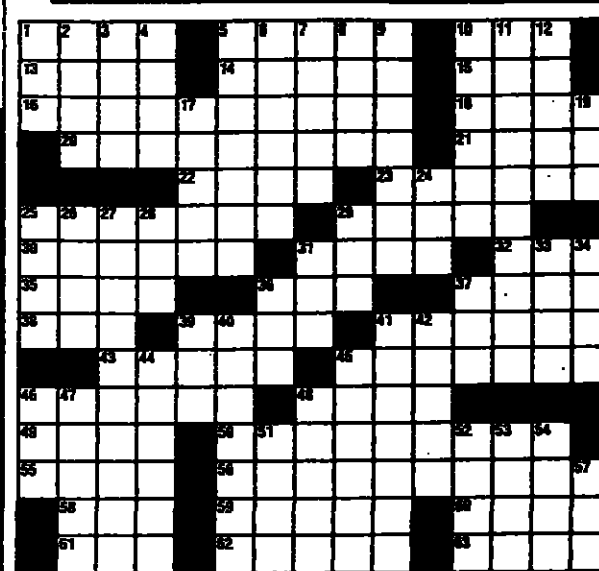
Saturdays and Wednesdays (5 to 6 pm) ladies aerobics and Saturdays (6 to 7 pm) mixed aerobics, with Touvi Pakasalo. Saturdays and Tuesdays Yoga (7 to 8 pm).
Bowling alley available for company tournaments.
Sundays squash handicap tournament, all standards welcome.

Tennis coaching available for non-members and additional facilities available under the supervision of selective professionals: loss of weight, body building, massage (steam - oil - and cream) for ladies and men.

Please contact the recreation department tel. 4742000 ext 6788 or 6700.

FEATURES

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
1 Snail's speed
5 Padres' French kin
10 Basic start
13 Emerald Isle
14 Cut the turkey
15 Neither fish — nor fowl
16 Business center in New York
18 Fly in the ointment
20 Storekeepers
21 Wood shaper
22 — the line (conformed)
23 Start of something big?
25 Kismet
29 Sound near Olympia, Wash.
30 Bruckner namesakes
31 City on the Avon
32 Josh
35 Standard
36 Strip
37 — meeny...
38 Consume
39 Predicament
41 Lifework
43 Atlanta University
45 Was influential
46 Resinous compound
48 —, a bone,
49 Sicilian sight
50 Sticks out like a —
55 "Younger — springtime..."
56 Trams
58 "...kind of fool —?"
59 Public storehouse
60 XXVII plus XXVII
61 Formerly called
62 Nickname for namesakes of Mrs. Kennedy
63 Charity
DOWN
1 So soundalike
2 Munchausen, for one
3 Heraldic band
4 Strip on a shoe
5 Deeds
6 Cereal grass
7 "This Happy —": 1944 film
8 Green or glade
9 Begins
10 Handled
11 Fashionable London thoroughfare
12 Fad
17 Glossy fabric
19 Comprehend
24 Yuck!

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
LEARNING FROM GYPSY ROSE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A Q 6 2
♥ J 6 5
♦ A 4
♣ 10 7 4 3
WEST
♠ J 7 3
♥ 10 4 2
♦ K 9 6 2
♣ K 9 6
EAST
♠ K 9 8 4
♥ 9 7
♦ Q 10 8 5 3
♣ Q J
SOUTH
♠ 10 5
♥ A K Q 8 3
♦ J 7
♣ A 8 5 2

The bidding:
South 1♥ West 1♠ North 1♠ East 1♠
2♣ Pass 4♥ Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♦
The great ecologists did not have to "take it all off" to excite their audiences — a partial strip was enough to fire the imagination. The same is often true at the bridge table.

Arguably, North had enough for a forcing jump in hearts at his first turn. However, a jump raise of partner's trump suit always promises four-card support, so he used a delayed game raise instead.

West led a low diamond, and a cursory examination of the North-South assets might lead to the conclusion that declarer was going to have to rely on the spade finesse for

his contract. Careful timing, however, made the defenders do his work for him.

The first key play was to duck the opening diamond lead. East took his queen and could do no better than return a diamond to dummy's ace. The ace and jack of trumps were cashed, leaving one trump outstanding. Next came the ace of clubs and another. The defenders were dead clubs.

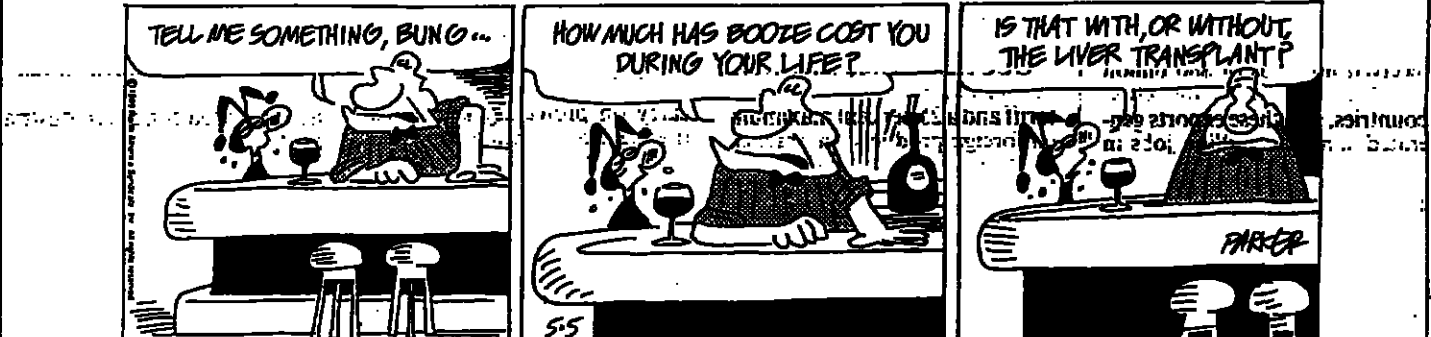
If West went up with the king of clubs, he would have killed one of his side's defensive tricks in that suit. He played low and East won, but that worthy was now well and truly endplayed. A spade return would be into dummy's major tenace; a diamond return would permit declarer to discard a spade while ruffing in dummy.

What if East has the last trump as an exit card? Declarer is no worse off than if he had drawn the last trump himself. He must rely on the spade finesse for his contract. But his technique did give him a significant extra chance that paid a huge dividend.



THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



هنا انت الوطن

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Japanese team in Iran with new proposals

Plan to discuss petrochemical project

NICOSIA, May 23, (Reuters): An Iranian newspaper has urged Iran to take a Japanese company to the World Court if necessary to press it to complete the petrochemical complex at Bandar Khomeini.

The call in Rissalat, reported today by the Iranian news agency IRNA, came as a Japanese delegation arrived in Tehran with new proposals on the Iran-Japan Petrochemical Co. (IJPC) project, damaged by Iraqi air raids.

The Japanese side, a consortium led by Mitsui, says the project on Iran's northern Gulf coast is no longer economical and should be liquidated.

The two sides have invested 600 billion yen (\$4.6 billion) in the 50-50 joint venture since 1971. The complex was 85 per cent complete when the Iran-Iraq war broke out in 1980.

IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, said Hiroshi Watada, president of Iran Chemical

Development Company, a Mitsui-led investment unit for the project, headed the Japanese delegation which arrived in Tehran yesterday.

Watada, who last visited Iran in March, will hold talks with the director of Iran's National Petrochemical Company Ahmad Rahgozar. IRNA gave no details of Watada's proposals.

Mitsui formally asked Iran to abandon the project last December. Tehran said it needed time to decide, but official statements have since insisted on completion.

Rissalat said Iran should not pin its hopes for the costly project on "fruitless negotiations".

"If the Japanese insist on their previous stance that the project is not economical, Iran should insist on the implementation of the original protocol and ask Mitsui for (Iran's) right even if the case is taken to the

International Court at the Hague," IRNA quoted the paper as saying.

Meanwhile, Japan's electronics industry voiced strong opposition today to a recent proposal by the European Economic Community commission to nearly triple the tariff on imports of Japanese-made video camera recorders.

The Electronic Industries Association of Japan said in a statement released today that Japanese manufacturers of video camera recorders (Camcorders) "have strongly objected to" the proposal and decided "to vigorously oppose this initiative".

"This disguised and substantial increase in the tariff rate for Camcorders proposed by the EEC Commission can only fuel the concern voiced throughout the world about 'fortress Europe,'" the statement said.

The association said the tariff rate on

Japanese Camcorders would be raised to 14 per cent from the current 4.9 per cent if the proposal were to be endorsed by the commission's member states.

The statement argued that "the bad news for the European consumer is that, if the proposal were adopted, the only Camcorders that would continue to be subjected to the lower tariff rate for television cameras would be Camcorders stripped of a convenient technical feature available all over the world."

It also said the proposal is inconsistent with the international convention on the harmonised commodity description and coding system, to which the EEC is a party.

According to government statistics, Japan's exports of consumer electronic equipment to the European Economic Community in 1988 totalled \$88.9 billion yen (\$4.5 billion), up 10.4 per cent over the previous year.



Tokyo foreign exchange dealers receive trading orders as the dollar lost some altitude yesterday on profit-taking after the currency soared to its highest rate against the yen since October 1987 in a day of choppy trade. The dollar closed at 141.95 yen yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

US businessmen in the Gulf encouraged by Congress outlook

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, May 23, (AP): American businessmen returning from a two-week lobbying trip to Washington said today they were encouraged by congressional receptivity to issues affecting US relations with the Arab world.

The 30-member group, which included US businessmen based in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman, held more than 150 meetings with officials of the US Departments of Commerce, State, Defence, and Treasury, and the office of the United States Trade Representative.

They sought to heighten awareness of the importance of US trade with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

This totalled \$13.26 billion last year, according to the estimates of the Riyadh-based American Businessmen's Group.

The 1987 total was \$11.4 billion and the 1986 figure was \$10 billion.

"Over the past 10 years, American companies have received upwards of \$80 billion for their exports to the GCC countries," said the group's director, Richard A. Meade.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, the UAE, Oman and Qatar.

Lobbying efforts included a plea to Congress to sell US defence equipment to friendly GCC countries, the need to remove US income tax on American citizens' overseas earnings to "improve" American competitiveness, and an urgent request for funding US product standards advisors to work with the Saudi standards and specifications organisation.

ABGR members said that countries which send teams of standards experts to Saudi Arabia, including Britain, France, West Germany and Japan, have a competitive edge over the United States.

They said that the American market share in Saudi Arabia has declined and that goods from companies such as General Electric, Clorox and Westinghouse have been stopped at Saudi customs solely due to standards incompatibility.

Last October, Congress passed legislation to send federal-approved standards agents to countries importing US goods worth more than \$1 billion with the caveat that private businessmen would have to foot the bill for the first two years.

"We want Congress and members of the executive branch, who are so concerned about America's soaring trade and budget deficits, to realise that the GCC is a major trading partner for America."

John Mulholland, president of the group of American businessmen of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, said that Congress appears more receptive to Arab issues due to "highly publicised developments" such as the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Bid to seek pact on customs tariffs

Gulf Arab ministers meet

RIYADH, May 23, (Agencies): Industry ministers from six Gulf Arab states were to debate today imposing a 25 per cent customs duty to protect national products from foreign goods not imported virtually duty-free, the Gulf News Agency said.

The Bahrain-based agency said possible import restrictions to counter foreign competition would also be discussed at a two-day meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The economic and political alliance — which imports most of its manufactured goods and foodstuffs — groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Ministers would also seek agreement on customs tariffs and joint industrial projects, officials said.

GCC states agreed three years ago on a four per cent minimum tariff and a 25 per cent maximum tariff on foreign products. In practice, most exports enter GCC countries duty free or at a very low duty.

Bahrain's Development and Industry Minister Youssef Shirawi said the ministers would review a paper on a 10-year unified industrial development strategy, the agency added.

At a summit in Bahrain last December the GCC delayed plans to introduce the unified customs pact by another year.

The accord, part of a 1981 plan to integrate GCC economies, was originally due to take effect



Faisal Abdul Razzaq Al Khalid

in 1987, but that deadline was extended to early 1989.

GCC finance ministers allowed Oman last December to carry on protecting key industries such as cement and plastics by 'taking' competing imports, despite the pact's guarantee of free trade between member states.

The Gulf states abolished tariffs on internal trade in 1983, but have yet to agree on unified tariffs for foreign imports.

The officials said industry ministers will also review progress in negotiations with the European Economic Community (EEC) since the two blocs signed a trade pact last year.

Kuwait's Minister of Commerce and Industry Faisal Abdul

Razzaq said that prior to his departure said that the meeting would discuss the main issues which were tackled in the previous meeting with the aim of executing the joint GCC economic agreement particularly concerning industry.

The meeting also will co-ordinate and integrate the industrial co-operation among the GCC member states, he elaborated.

He said the meeting will tackle the recommendations by the technical committee, and the recommendations of the second meeting of the officials in the GCC oil and petrochemical companies, specially after their repeated meetings with the European petrochemical producers, and their efforts to co-ordinate with them on marketing and opening new markets for GCC states' petrochemicals.

The minister said that the issues of protecting the industrial productions of the GCC member states will be discussed in the 8th meeting as well as the memorandum by the general secretariat on co-ordinating the GCC countries industrial projects.

Khalid added that the participants will be acquainted with memos on the new Gulf industries such as the telephones, and iron and steel industries.

The minister is accompanied by acting assistant under-secretary for finance, administrative and industrial affairs Ali Abdulla Al Bin Ali and other ministry officials.

Annab opens seminar Arab states 'best home for investment operations'



MAMOUN IBRAHIM HASSAN AMMAN, May 23, (KUNA): A symposium to appraise performance of Arab investment projects got under way here yesterday, co-sponsored by Kuwait's Inter Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation (IAIGC) and Jordan's Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Central Bank.

In an inaugural address, Jordanian Minister of Trade Ziyad Annab highlighted achievements realised by Arab investment schemes and hoped failures would be avoided to attain goals for which these projects had been implemented.

Speaking at the opening session, IAIGC director-general Mamoun Ibrahim Hassan said the meeting would concentrate on issues of utilisation and repatriation of Arab capital as well as attraction of Arab funds invested abroad, estimated at nearly \$970 billion.

"Though capital owners are convinced that Arab states are the best home for their investment operations," he said, "materialisation of this fact is still a distant goal, requiring persistent efforts and work."

He indicated that by the end of 1988, flow of capital investment within the Arab homeland reached some \$9.9 billion.

Resident representative of the UN Development Programme also addressed the session, underscoring marked interest in developing investment and co-operation among several Arab state groupings of political and economic proximity.

The official pointed out that the Amman party would be a good opportunity for an in-depth revival of Arab investment activities, both from the legislative and institutional point of view.

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Plans to double oil reserve

SEOUL, South Korea, May 23, (AP): The government plans to nearly double its emergency oil stockpiles to more than 70 million barrels by the mid-1990s in view of South Korea's growing oil use, officials said today.

The officials at the Energy and Resources Ministry said the project, still under study, would require about \$1.5 billion to build storage facilities and buy oil.

The project also is intended to guard against price hikes from another international oil supply crunch.

Dollar becalmed at 29-month highs

Fed may ease interest rates

LONDON, May 23, (Reuters): The dollar was becalmed at 29-month-highs today amid signs that Washington might act to end the US currency's sharp climb this month.

A Washington Post report today suggested that the US Federal Reserve (central bank) might ease American interest rates, a major factor in the dollar's strength so far this year.

It quoted White House budget director Richard Darman as saying he thought the Fed could take such steps and it said this view was "gaining support within the administration."

Dealers said the market was digesting the report and speculation that Japan and Britain might also raise interest rates to defend their currencies.

West Germany might take a similar step, but not before the next regular meeting of the Bundesbank council on June 1.

There was also speculation that the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations — the US, Japan, West Germany, Canada, Britain, France and Italy —

might meet to tighten policy on exchange rate co-ordination.

All seven states will be in Paris next week for a meeting of the 24-nation Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the West's economic think-tank, and the dollar is certain to be discussed.

The G-7's policy was enshrined in the so-called Louvre accord of February 1987, but that pact, which aimed to restrict currency movements within secret limits, looks increasingly flimsy as the market calls the dollar's tune.

The dollar traded above two marks and 140 yen today, barriers it crossed yesterday in a surge that has seen it rise by some 14 per cent since the start of the year.

At midday in Europe, it was quoted at 2.0083 marks and 141.70 yen from a London close today of 2.0090 and 142.05. Dealers said the slightest fall represented an opportunity to buy cheaply.

"Demand for dollars is good

under two marks," said one Frankfurt trader. "A dollar below that is just an excuse to buy."

That demand comes from investors attracted by high US interest rates and businesses buying the currency to cover requirements in case it goes up again.

If there is no decisive action to draft it down, the dollar's next move can only be upwards towards 2.25 marks, dealer said.

Market talk has shifted to the likelihood of a rise in base interest rates because of the inability of central banks to influence the market using the traditional weapon of intervention.

Gold was fixed in London Tuesday morning at \$363.40 an ounce after closing yesterday at \$360.50.

In London share prices stayed weak in late trading, reflecting Wall Street's path, as fears of higher UK, West German and Japanese interest rates in the face of dollar strength continued to bite, dealers said.

Exchange rate stability Key points of '87 Louvre accord

LONDON, May 23, (Reuters): Here are the key points of the Louvre accord issued on February 22, 1987, after a meeting in Paris of finance ministers and central bank governors from the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain and Canada.

1. The ministers and governors recognised that the large trade and current account imbalances of some countries posed serious economic and political risks.

2. They reaffirmed their concern over continuing pressures for protectionism.

3. They recognised that the major industrial countries made a special responsibility to follow policies which fostered an open, growing world economy to support the efforts of developing countries, especially debtor countries, to restore steady growth and viable balance of payments positions.

4. They agreed to intensify economic policy co-ordination efforts to promote more balanced global growth and to reduce existing imbalances. Surplus countries would try to strengthen domestic demand and to reduce their external surpluses while maintaining price stability. Deficit countries would try to encourage steady, low-inflation growth while reducing their domestic imbalances and external deficits.

To do this, each country agreed to carry out specific fiscal measures over the next one or two years and to implement certain structural economic reforms:

— Canada agreed to continue regulatory reform, privatisation and liberalisation of domestic markets. It would pursue trade liberalisation with the United States and other nations.

— France pledged to cut taxation and to sell off state assets, aiming to reinforce the liberalisation of the economy, especially of labour and financial markets.

— West Germany would try to cut further the share of public spending in the economy and to reduce taxes, aimed at reinforcing incentives for private activity and investment.

— Japan would follow monetary and fiscal policies which would help to expand domestic demand and thereby contribute to reducing the domestic surplus.

— Britain would continue to reduce inflation by following a prudent monetary policy. The share of public expenditure in the economy would continue to fall and taxes would be reduced.

— The United States would introduce a wide range of policies to improve its competitiveness and to enhance the strength and flexibility of its economy. Monetary policy would be consistent with economic expansion at a sustainable non-inflationary pace.

5. The ministers and governors said that a number of newly industrialised economies had achieved strong growth partly because they had access to open, growing export markets. But some had accumulated trade surpluses which contributed to global imbalances, thus increasing protectionist pressures.

They said these countries should assume more responsibility for preserving an open world trading system by lowering trade barriers and allowing their currencies to reflect more fully underlying economic fundamentals.

6. They also agreed to review periodically medium-term economic objectives and projections involving domestic and external variables. The key variables were growth, inflation, current account/trade balances, budget performances, monetary conditions and exchange rates.

They would examine whether economic developments and trends were consistent with the medium-term objectives and consider any need for remedial action.

7. They agreed that exchange rate changes over the previous 18 months would help cut external imbalances and had brought their currencies within ranges broadly consistent with underlying economic fundamentals.

Further substantial exchange rate shifts among their currencies could damage growth and adjustment prospects, so they agreed to co-operate to stabilise rates around existing levels.

Hong Kong market bounces back

HONG KONG, May 23, (Reuters): Hong Kong's jittery stock market, fuelled by rumours from Beijing, bounced back today to post its greatest one-day gain since the exchange was reconstructed in 1986.

Within minutes of opening, buyers snapped up shares dumped yesterday in response to fears of bloodshed after the weekend declaration of martial law in parts of Beijing.

"Yesterday we had panic selling, today we had panic buying," said Laurence Amerine, research manager at DMT Securities.

The market tumbled 10.8 per cent on Monday, a fall of 339.06 points.

But the Hang Seng index shot back today to gain 261.08 points to 3,067.65, the greatest single-day gain since the stock exchange was created out of four smaller bourses three years ago, brokers said.

Sentiment did an about-turn late in the day when the famous portrait of Mao Tse-tung, looming over Beijing's Tiananmen Square, was defaced by paint.

The index tumbled nearly 50 points towards the close, a fall brokers said had been accelerated by reports the Mayor of Shanghai had criticised the students.

Turnover at 3.67 billion dollars (\$470 million) exceeded yesterday's post-October 1987 crash record high of three billion dollars (\$385 million).

"Trading is completely emotional, it bears no relation to market fundamentals," said a broker at local securities house.

"It's rollercoasting with every rumour — even the silly ones. Look how quickly sentiment changed late in the day and every one piled out."

Hong Kong's stock market is regarded as extremely vulnerable to political events in China, which is due to resume sovereignty of Hong Kong in just eight years time.

"Yesterday, just talk that troops were going to move into Tiananmen Square was enough to set off selling," said Howard Gorges, a director of South China Securities.

World Bank loan for Tunisia

WASHINGTON, May 23, (KUNA): Tunisia's programme to improve access to low-income urban housing and to strengthen key institutions in the sector will be financed by a \$58 million World Bank loan, it was announced here today.

The project, the fifth of its kind in Tunisia to be assisted by the World Bank, will improve housing finance by increasing the private sector's share in housing development, further mobilising domestic savings, and rationalising the use of public resources, according to World Bank officials.

Bush weighs advice on new trade law's hit list

WASHINGTON, May 23, (AP): President George Bush is weighing conflicting advice on how to implement the new trade law's controversial mandate that the administration issue a list of nations that have erected the most harmful barriers against US products.

Bush attended a session of the cabinet-level Economic Policy Council yesterday to hear arguments from both sides but gave no indication which way he would decide, according to one participant.

Under the 1,000-page rewrite of the trade law passed by Congress last year, the administration must issue by May 28 a list of nations judged to have erected the most flagrant trade barriers against US products.

The administration then has 18 months to negotiate the removal of the barriers. If unsuccessful, it can retaliate by levying tariffs up to 100 per cent against imports from an offending country, effectively doubling the price of those goods.

An administration source, who spoke on the condition that his name not be used, said that Bush would settle the matter before he left Friday for a trip to the 40th anniversary meeting of the NATO alliance.

Housing and Urban Development Secretary Jack Kemp said after Monday's meeting that Bush had not made up his mind.

One option reportedly under consideration

would be to narrowly target certain trade practices in Japan, India and Brazil rather than pursue a longer list of trading abuses.

The specific practices reportedly under consideration include Japan's refusal to buy US-made satellites and supercomputers and its restrictions on US lumber imports, Brazil's import-licensing practices, and India's restrictions on foreign investment and foreign insurance companies.

By targeting particular trading practices but not listing the offending countries by name, the administration would blunt the sting of the hit list, which has come under heavy attack by foreign governments.

LONDON
(Alpha Stocks)

NAME	LAST	275/0
ABBEY LIFE	281/0	315/0
ADT LTD	182/0	303/0
ALD LYONS	138/0	
AMSTRAD	104/0	
ARGYLE GP	204/0	
ASDA GP	170/0	
BAA	341/0	
BTR	388/0	
BAT INDS	560/0	
BERRISFORD	465/0	
BASS	958/0	
BEAZER	197/8	
BEECHAMS	638/0	
BICCL PLC	518/0	
BLUE ARMY	98/5	
BLUE CIRC	589/0	
BOC GP	493/0	
BOOTS CO	296/0	
BPH INDS	233/0	
BR COIN	198/0	
BR AIRWAY	199/0	
BR AIRPORT	338/0	
BR GAS RG	179/0	
BR LAND	370/0	
B.P.	285/0	
B.P.FP	283/5	
BR STEEL	90/0	
BR TELCOM	277/5	
BURMAN OL	591/0	
BURTON	231/0	
CABLESWR	550/0	
CADBURYS	362/0	
CALOR GRP	401/0	
CLRTN CO	852/0	
COATS VVY	163/5	
COOKSONS	334/0	
COURTAULD	338/0	
DALGETY	369/0	
DIXONS	148/2	
ENG CHINA	486/4	
ENTER OIL	560/0	
FKI BACK	164/0	
FERRANTI	105/0	
FISONS	300/0	
GATEWAY	199/0	
GEN ACCIO	970/0	
GEN ELEC	244/0	
GLAXO	428/0	
GRANADA	346/0	
GLOBE	176/0	
GLYNED	310/0	
GUYARD RL	210/0	
GKML	398/0	
GUINNESS	482/0	
HMMERSN A	790/0	
HANSON	200/0	
HARRISON C	177/0	
HUKER SID	716/0	
HILLSDOWN	279/0	
INT	236/5	

LONDON
(Beta Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
2ND ALLCE	937/0	941/0
600 GROUP	137/0	137/0
A-APR TS	435/0	436/0
A.B.ELECT	363/0	363/0
A.S.V.HLD	288/0	288/0
AAS KENT	112/0	114/0
AAS HLD	408/0	410/0
AARONSON	107/0	106/0
ADDISON	46/0	45/0
ADVEST	176/0	175/0
ALEX WRM	204/0	205/0
ALEXON	404/0	404/0
ALD COLL	148/0	143/0
ALD IR B	309/0	309/0
ALL PART	72/4	73/0
ALLIANCE	055/0	057/0
AMBER DAY	51/4	51/4
AMEC	514/0	515/0
AMER TST	148/4	149/0
AMERSHAM	508/0	507/0
ANI HLTHC	364/0	364/0
ANGIA SC	287/0	286/0
ANGIA TV	291/0	290/0
ANSBACHER	77/0	76/0
APPLEYARD	181/0	180/0
APV PLC	153/0	153/0
ASHLEY LA	103/0	103/0
AUS REE A	241/0	240/0
AUST REED	293/0	293/0
AUTO SECS	145/0	145/0
AVIS EUR	431/0	432/0
AVON RUBB	618/0	617/0
B.WENHILL	256/0	255/0
BAILL JAP	521/0	518/0
BAILL SHI	96/4	96/0
BAIRD (W)	246/0	247/0
BANK REE	290/0	289/0
BANKER IT	92/4	93/0
BARDON GP	199/0	200/0
BART DEV	185/0	184/0
BAYNES C	36/0	36/0
BBA GROUP	206/0	206/0
BEAR BRID	12/2	12/4
BEATTIE J	148/0	148/0
BEHAVIOR	258/0	258/0
BELLWAY	260/0	260/0
BEMROSE	242/4	241/0
BENLOH RD	66/0	67/0
BERKELEY	230/0	231/0
BHH GROUP	133/0	133/0
BK OF SCO	95/0	95/0
BLK L2	10/4	10/4
BLM GROUP	452/0	453/0
BINNETT + F	89/0	89/0
BOASE MAS	364/0	362/0
BODDINGTON	164/0	164/0
BOOTH SHR	588/0	588/0
BOOTH HNR	478/0	478/0
BORTHWICK	41/0	41/0
BR ARROW	117/0	116/0

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
BR ASSETS	82/0	82/0
BR DRENGI	191/0	192/0
BR VITA	272/0	272/0
BRENT CHE	151/0	150/0
BRENT WKR	397/0	397/0
BRODM	195/0	195/0
BRITAIN SE	193/0	193/0
BRITANNIC	400/0	399/0
BRIXTON E	400/0	400/0
BRN & JAC	44/0	44/0
BROWN SHI	349/0	347/0
BRYANT GP	105/0	105/0
BSR INTL	76/4	76/4
BSR INTL	63/0	62/0
BUDGENS	106/0	106/0
BULLOUGH	189/0	189/0
BULMER HP	174/0	175/0
CAIRO GRP	503/0	500/0
CALENDONIA	379/0	378/0
CAMB ELEC	207/0	208/0
CAMPFORD E	278/0	278/0
CANNING W	272/0	272/0
CANNON ST	232/0	232/0
CAR-RADIO	846/0	843/0
CARDON	352/0	352/0
CARLCO EN	156/0	156/0
CAULDON	18/4	12/4
CEMTL TV	217/0	217/0
CHAM PHRR	22/4	22/4
CHARTERHA	118/0	118/0
CHAS CHUR	118/0	118/0
CHLORIDE	43/0	43/0
CHRISTIE	276/0	275/0
CI GROUP	55/0	55/0
CLAYFORD	310/0	308/0
CMB PR N	750/0	750/0
CNTRL SEC	58/4	58/4
CNTRY OIL	188/0	188/0
COLALITE	426/4	429/0
COLORCOL	166/0	166/0
CONNELLS	235/0	235/0
COOPER F	154/0	154/0
COSTAIN	367/0	366/0
COURTS FR	160/0	160/0
COMIE (T)	137/0	138/0
CRI	195/0	193/0
CRODA INT	197/0	198/0
CRYSTALAT	128/0	128/0
CTRY PROP	233/0	233/0
DARES EST	32/4	32/4
DAVIS GPO	177/0	178/0
DAVY CORP	250/0	251/0
DAMSON GP	187/0	186/0
DELTA GRP	341/0	341/0
DEVENTH	308/0	307/0
DEMIRIST	43/4	44/0
DIPLOMA	218/0	217/0
DOBSON PK	97/4	97/0
DOPAS GRP	353/0	354/0
DOUGLASS	73/0	74/0
DRAYTON GP	282/0	282/0
DRAYTON F	425/0	426/0
DRAYTON C	547/0	548/0
DRG	473/0	473/0
DUKINSTEAD	77/0	78/0
DUNDEE LD	333/0	333/0
DUNHILL	313/0	315/0
EAGLE TST	17/6	17/6
EDIN L.T	201/4	201/4
EDMOND HD	46/4	45/4
ELECTRA	287/4	288/0
ELECTROCH	202/0	203/0
EMAP	252/0	253/0
EMESS	454/0	455/0
EMPIRE ST	177/0	178/0
ENG. INT. J	313/0	313/0
ETAM	177/0	176/0
EURO HOME	216/0	217/0
EUROHERM	303/0	303/0
EUROFNL UT	948/9	950/0
EURLT WL	72/4	72/4
EVRO GRP	183/0	183/0
EX. CO. LDO	215/0	215/0
EXPANET	221/0	221/0
F&C ENTER	34/2	34/0
F&C EURO	296/0	296/0
F&C PACIF	174/4	175/0
F&C SNLR	83/4	83/0
FARNELL E	175/0	176/0
FED. HOUSE	200/0	200/0
FENNER JH	177/0	177/0
FERGUSON	259/0	258/0
FINE ARTS	241/0	242/0
FINLAN GP	83/0	84/0
FINLAY J	110/0	110/0
FITCH LDF	276/0	276/0
FKB GROUP	326/0	327/0
FLM. H. INC	113/0	113/0
FLM AMER	149/4	150/0
FLM F.E	238/0	238/0
FLM INIV	184/0	184/0
GEEST	280/0	280/0
GET INTL	141/0	141/0
GERDINAT	263/0	260/0
GETSTNER	291/0	291/0
GOODE DUR	129/0	129/0
GP	43/0	42/0
GRANPH HD	232/0	233/0
GREEN KNG	514/0	515/0
GREENLL W	300/0	302/0
GREYCAT	505/0	506/0
GRP TV A	69/0	68/0
GRPTLND	381/0	381/0
GUINNESS MA	130/0	131/0
GUS ORD	638/0	650/0
GUTT ORIE	384/0	385/0
GUTT STRA	275/0	276/0
H. LIND DIS	223/0	223/0
HALMA	220/0	219/0
HAMMERSON	844/0	845/0
HAVTHL LE	69/0	69/4
HAZELWOOD	261/0	261/0
HEATH(CE)	482/0	482/0
HELENE PL	32/0	32/0
HELICAL B	342/0	342/0

NEW YORK

45/3/0	A BSC CH	41/4	41/6
299/0	AAR CORP	31/3	31/2
142/0	ABBOTT LAB	59/2	59/4
161/0	ACME CLVD	10/6	10/5
880/0	ADV MICRO	9/1	9/2
288/0	AEROFL LAB	4/0	4/0
176/0	AETNA LIFE	53/4	53/5
165/0	AMNHANSON	20/4	20/7
129/0	ATR PR-CHN	43/0	43/0
123/0	ALASKA ATR	27/6	27/7
53/0	ALBERTSONS	45/4	45/6
98/0	ALPHA 8-16	0	85/4
143/0	ALCAN ALUM	33/3	33/4
127/0	ALCO STAND	30/3	30/2
17/4	AM CAP SEC	21/0	21/1
321/0	AM CYNAMID	56/7	56/5
145/0	AM FAMILY	15/7	16/0
93/0	AM HON PRO	95/6	95/7
401/0	AM STINDARD	9/6	9/7
71/0	AM STORES	62/4	62/6
290/0	AM TEL-TEL	35/2	35/4
22/0	AM TOLSON	44/3	44/6
128/0	AMP INC	43/1	43/2
239/0	AMPCO PITT	14/6	14/7
38/0	AMR CORP	63/4	63/6
31/0	AMR GEN CO	35/6	35/6
4	AMERADA HE	37/3	38/3
38/0	ANTHEM ELE	11/2	11/1
463/0	APACHE CP	11/0	11/0
219/0	APCAL 8-12	0	84/0
46/0	ARMSTRONG	38/0	37/7
21/0	ASHLAND OIL	41/1	41/2
232/0	ASIA PACIF	11/0	10/5
168/0	ATLS CORP	11/6	12/0
42/0	ATV INC	25/6	25/5
256/0	AVNET INC	24/5	24/7
470/0	AVON PRODS	34/5	34/2
150/0	BCE INC	32/0	32/2
92/0	BELLSOUTH	49/5	49/7
533/0	BELO CP A	35/1	35/3
243/0	BETH STEEL	23/7	24/0
524/0	BEVERLY	8/6	8/7
254/0	BK BOSTON	26/0	25/7
127/0	BK BOSTN-A	36/5	36/5
111/0	BK NY-MEX	45/6	46/1
94/0	BKAMERICA	26/6	27/0
87/4	BKAM SPEC	6/2	6/2
6	BOEING CO	79/3	80/0
165/4	BOISE CASC	45/3	45/5
41/0	BND IN GLD	0	6/6
169/0	BORDEN	64/7	65/1
171/0	BOMATER	30/1	30/3
245/0	BR TELECOM	44/2	44/2
90/0	BRIGGS-STR	28/6	28/5
321/0	BRIST-MYER	50/1	50/4
77/0	BRUNSWICK	19/6	19/7
4			
218/0	C 3 INC	11/6	11/6
175/0	C HUD G-EL	21/5	21/4
213/0	CABOT CORP	40/2	40/1
125/0	CAESARS WD	34/4	34/4

International Bond Highlights

FRANKFURT: The Hungarian National Bank is issuing a 200 min mark eight-year Eurobond with an eight pct coupon priced at par, lead manager Di Bank Deutsche Genossenschaftsbank said.

Rome: Banco di Roma SPA is arranging a 150 min European currency unit 10-year syndicated loan for Autostrade SPA, a bank official said.

London: Press Agency Co Ltd is issuing a 100 min dir, four year, equity warrant Eurobond with an indicated coupon at 4-1/2 pct, lead manager Nomura International PLC said.

Frankfurt: Deutsche Bank is issuing a 150 min mark private placement Eurobond with a 8-5/8 pct coupon priced at 101-1/8 for four years, lead Deutsche Bank AG said.

London: Oesterreichische Kontrollbank AG is issuing a 100 min dir Eurobond due June 15, 1992 paying 12 pct and priced at 100-7/8 pct, lead manager Wierburg Securities Ltd said.

Copenhagen: Commercial Bank Overseas Finance NV of Curaçao is issuing a 300 min Danish crown four year zero coupon bond, lead manager Privatbanken A/S said.

Mexico City: New York Federal Reserve Bank Chairman Gerald Corrigan has invited senior bankers to meet the heads of three multilateral financing agencies next Tuesday to discuss Mexico's 1989-91 financing requirements, the Mexican Finance Ministry said.

London: The World Bank will support a US initiative to reduce debt among developing nations if they move to improve their economies, the bank's treasurer said.

London: The British government confirmed it will write off five billion stg of debt owed by the existing water authorities before they are privatized.

BOMBAY

PR. CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GE SHIPPING	38.25	38	40.50	HRF LTD	390	380	390
ACC	321.50	323	326	GLINDIA	93	92.75	37	108	107	111
ALEM CHEN	---	---	---	GNFC	36.75	36.25	37	370.99	---	369.41
ALU NIS	---	---	---	GRASIM	119	121	123.50	NIPPON	36	35
ARI FAB	---	---	---	GSFC	145	143.75	147.50	NOCIL	790	790
ASHOK LEY	83	82	83	GUJ ALK	69	68.50	69.25	ORRAY	23.50	22.75
ASIA PAINT	175	176.25	---	GUJ HEAVY	12	10.50	11.50	OSMAL AGRO	77	76
ATLAS COP	44	43	44	HERO HONDA	28	26	26	PEFCO	21.50	20.50
AUTO CORP	92	90	92	IND CIBA	940	940	103	PONDS	179	179
BAJAJ AUTO	382.50	382.50	385	IND COVER	103.75	102.50	103	PREM AUTO	54.50	55.50
BAR JAYAL	422.50	417.50	422.50	IND LECO	81	80.50	81.50	RANBY	118	116.50
BK BOND	142	141	142.50	IND MOTOR	37.50	37.75	39	RAY MOOL	80.25	79
BLOW PLAST	---	---	---	IND NALCO	280	280	292.50	RECKITT	190	186.25
BOM DYE	141	141	143	IND ORG	755	760	760	RELIANCE	119	119
BSE INDEX	708.35	---	705.77	IND RAYON	87.50	88	88	SHRI FIB	86	85
BURL LEL	195	190	197.50	IND SOLL	306.25	306.25	312.50	SIEMENS	72	71
CANSHARE	185	175	185	INGERSOLL	355	355	352.50	SKF	1350	1360
CEN ENKA	245	245	2510	ITC	98.50	97	99	SPIC	50.25	52.25
CEN SPG	1880	1865	1895	JY SW	76.25	76	77	ST MILLS	262.50	262.50
COLGATE	332.50	332.50	342.50	KIR CHNG	75	74	75	TATA CHEM	110	110
CROMT GR	960	960	980	KIR CHNG	75	74	75	TATA OIL	66.25	62.50
DCM	66	66	66	KSB PUMPS	390	400	380	TATA POW	325	320
DEEP PERT	27.50	27.50	27.50	L AND T	86	85.50	85.50	TELCO	817.50	815
DUNLOP	85	82.50	85	LIPTON	74	73.50	74	THAPP AGRO	110	110
EI HOTELS	55	55	55.50	KAD RUSSEL	110	107.50	110	TISSOT	1265	1255
ESCORTS	62	61.50	63	NAD COATS	98	100	100	VAR OR	165	162
ESKAYEE	123.75	123.75	125	MAHINDRA	95	94	95	VARELL	25	25
ESSAR SPG	22.25	22	22.25	MAS SHARE	18.50	18.25	18.85	VOLTA	655	655
FOOD SPL	182.50	180	178.75	MICO	580	575	580	VINCO	24	23.50
FORBES	51	50	50	MILKFOOD	230	225	230	ZENITH	63	60
GAR POLY	69.50	68.75	68.50	MODI	95	95	98.75	ZIARI AGRO	57.50	57.50

FRANKFURT

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLSE
AGE	209.0	209.0
ALLIANZ VR	1675.0	1684.0
BADEENK	189.0	192.0
BASF	303.5	299.6
BAYER	300.0	297.4
BAYER HYP	363.5	336.0
BAYER VER	362.5	362.0
BBC	437.5	437.5
BRF	433.0	435.0
BNW	512.0	512.0
COMMERZB	242.0	243.5
CONTI GUMH	261.0	258.5
DATIN BEN	658.0	657.0
DEUTSC BAK	516.5	513.5
DLW	538.0	538.0
DRESCHER B	316.5	313.5
FEZ INDEX	564.0	569.39
FELMUEHL	329.0	324.0
GOLDSCHEID	399.0	386.0
HARPENST	452.0	453.0
HOECHST AG	305.0	300.1
HOESCH	246.9	244.0
HORTEN	248.0	256.0
MUSSEL HLD	563.0	563.0
KALI SALZ	207.0	208.0
KARSTADT	520.0	525.0
KAUFHOFF	464.0	464.0
KLOECK H	165.8	165.8
KLOECK W	159.0	157.5
LINDE	709.0	704.0
LUFTHANSA	172.5	173.0
MAN	277.0	277.0
MANHESMAN	234.7	232.5
MERCEDES	518.0	503.5
METALLGES	413.2	403.0
NIDORF PF	334.0	335.0
NORSK HYD	47.90	48.20
PHILIP KOM	555.0	550.0
PORSCHER	757.0	742.0
PREUSSAG	271.0	267.0
PWA	287.7	291.8
RHEINMETAL	422.0	427.0
RME	282.7	283.8
RWE P	246.5	249.0
SALAMANDER	320.0	323.0
SCHERING	642.0	637.0
SEL	312.0	313.0
SIEMENS	523.5	518.0
THYSSEN	265.5	265.0
VARTA	368.0	372.0
VEBA	280.0	278.0
VEW	169.4	169.3
VOLKSWAGEN	359.5	352.5

HONG KONG

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLSE
BANK EA	17.30	16.10
CATHAY	9.65	9.00
CAVENDISH	357	372
CEUNG K	10.50	9.35
CHINA L-P	14.10	13.40
DAIRY FARM	730	735
EVERGOLD	2.82	2.27
GT EAGLE	0	0
H S INDEX	67.65	806.57
HONG	22	20
HONG LUNG	5.90	5.25
HENDERSON	6.35	5.45
HK BANK	6.30	5.85
HK ELEC	7.70	7.20
HK GAS	20.00	19.00
HK LAND	10.30	9.30
HK TELECOM	5.20	4.72
HK-NOTEL	6.00	5.40
HOPWELL	2.65	2.42
HS BANK	25.70	23.90
HUTCHINSON	11.20	10.20
HYMAN DEV	1.60	1.42
JAR MATH	22.10	20.10
JSH	13.00	11.50
KN BUS	8.70	8.10
LAI SUN	165	165
MANDARIN O	0	0
MIRAMAR	8.50	7.53
NEW WORLD	13.10	12.40
PAUL Y CON	1.27	1.07
SHK PROP	14.00	12.80
STELLUX	2.87	2.70
SWIRE A	20.60	19.10
TAI CHEUNG	5.05	4.45
TV-B	1.20	1.11
WHAIF	11.20	10.20
WINSOR	9.40	8.50
WORLD INTL	4.87	4.42

TOKYO

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLSE
AIJINOMOTO	2760	2770
AKAI ELEC	835	842
AKI	1390	1410
ASAKI GLS	2270	2310
ASAKI OPT	925	915
BANK TOKYO	1670	1670
BRIDGESTON	1590	1620
CANON	1800	1770
CASIO COMP	1420	1430
CHUGAI PHM	1760	1800
CITIZEN W	1080	1060
D-ICHI CAN	3350	3310
DAI NIP IK	926	946
DAI NIP PT	2440	2430
DAI NIP SC	1220	1240
DAI NIP TO	1010	1030
DAICEL	1040	1070
DAIWA SEC	2160	2190
DAIWA SEC	2160	2190
EBARA-MFG	2000	2040
ETSAI	2070	2040
FUJITSU	1560	1560
FUJII BANK	3470	3400
FUJII PHOTO	4040	3940
FUJITSAMA	1780	1760
FUJITSU CP	1950	1960
HITACHI	1710	1730
HONDA MOT	2070	2070
ISSETAN	2270	2270
ITO YOKADO	3650	3620
JAP SYN RK	1250	1280
JAPAN AIR	15900	16000
JAPAN MET	1040	1080
KAJIMA	2080	2100
KANSAI EL	4710	4810
KAO SOAP	1700	1700
KAWASAKI H	1060	1050
KAWASAKI S	1030	1040
KIRIN BREW	1990	2000
KOMATSU	1270	1320
KUBOTA LTD	1220	1260
KYOCERA	5350	5200
MAKITA EL	1870	1880
MARUI	2730	2770
MATSUDA EI	2540	2550
MATSUDA EL	0	0
MEIJI SEIK	1140	1140
MITSUB CP	1540	1580
MITSUB EST	1180	1200
MITSUB HYV	1110	1140
MITSUBI CO	1110	1120
MITSUBUSHI	2460	2460
MITSUBI EL	1080	1080
NICHICON	1660	1700
NINON CHMT	1200	1210
NIKKO SEC	1870	1870
NIP ELEC	1910	1890
NIP KOKAN	899	909
NIP OIL	1590	1600
NIP STEEL	894	898
NIP YUSEN	1010	1050
NIS MOTOR	1540	1560
NOMURA SEC	3390	3380
OHSA CO	1170	1180
OLYMPUS	1370	1360
OMRON	1450	1450
PIONEER	3590	3590
REIKO	1090	1090
RICOH	1320	1340
SANKYO	2510	2540
SEIYU ST	2210	2170
SEIKIUS PB	1950	1950
SHARP	1400	1410
SHISEIDO	1750	1750
SONY	7600	7600
SUNITOMO	1350	1370
TAISEI	1650	1680
TAISHO MRN	1340	1370
TAKEDA CH	2490	2500
TEIJIN	898	915
TKO NEW IX	507.85	519.46
TOKIO MRN	2050	2060
TOKYO ELEC	1250	1260
TOKYO GAS	1120	1150
TOKYO POWR	6000	6060
TORAY IND	1020	1040
TOSHIBA EL	1360	1380
TOTO	2380	2370
TOYO KKOYI	978	987
TOYOTA MOT	2740	2740
YAMADA	1460	1470
YAMATCHI	1870	1850
YAMAMOTO	3650	3650
YAMAZAKI	1570	1540

Tokyo Stock Market Report

TOKYO STOCKS CLOSE SHARPLY DOWN ON STRONG DOLLAR

TOKYO, MAY 23, REUTER - A SURGE BY THE DOLLAR AGAINST THE YEN KNOCKED THE MAIN TOKYO SHARE INDEX DOWN OVER 400 POINTS IN EARLY TRADE AND HELD IT THERE MOST OF THE DAY IN LIGHT TRADE BEFORE A PARTIAL REBOUND ON LATE BUYING. A WEAK YEN COULD QUICKEN INFLATION AND PROMPT A DISCOUNT RATE RISE. THE STORY TODAY IS THE MARKET FINALLY WAKE UP TO THE IMPLICATIONS OF A STRONG DOLLAR, SAID MICHAEL CUTBELL, BANK OF TOKYO TOUCHE REAUMAT ASSET MANAGEMENT (BTR) FUND MANAGER. THE KEY 225-SHARE NIKKEI INDEX FELL 251.25 POINTS, OR 0.74 PCT, TO CLOSE AT 33,816.61, ITS BIGGEST ONE-DAY DROP SINCE APRIL 6, WHEN IT FELL 365.01.

THE NIKKEI WAS DOWN AS MUCH AS 485.43 POINTS TO THE DAY'S LOW OF 33,582.43 JUST BEFORE THE MIDDAY CLOSE. IT GAINED 65.90 ON MONDAY.

BUT THE INDEX REBOUNDED SOMEWHAT IN LATE AFTERNOON TRADE, MAINLY ON ARBITRAGE BUYING OF CASH STOCKS AND SELLING OF INDEX FUTURES, FUTURES TRADERS SAID.

TURNOVER WAS 700 MLN SHARES AGAINST 550 MLN ON MONDAY.

IN TOKYO TODAY THE DOLLAR BRIEFLY BROKE THROUGH 143 YEN AFTER RALLYING OVERNIGHT DESPITE CONCERNED CENTRAL BANK INTERVENTION IN NEW YORK, WHERE IT CLOSED AT 142.00/10 YEN, SOME THREE YEN HIGHER THAN ITS FRIDAY CLOSE THERE.

THE DOLLAR MOVED TOO HIGH AND TOO QUICKLY FOR THE NIKKEI, SAID GREGORY BUNDY, HEAD OF EQUITY TRADING AT MERRILL LYNCH JAPAN INC.

INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS STAYED OUT OF THE MARKET TODAY AND ARE LIKELY TO REMAIN SIDELINED UNTIL AFTER JAPAN'S APRIL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX IS RELEASED ON FRIDAY, OR AFTER THE BANK OF JAPAN RAISES THE OFFICIAL DISCOUNT RATE (ODR).

BROKERS SAID THEY EXPECT THE BANK OF JAPAN TO RAISE THE DISCOUNT RATE FROM ITS CURRENT RECORD LOW OF 2.5 PCT.

"THE ODR HAS TO GO UP BUT THE QUESTION IS HOW MUCH, AND WHEN," SAID A BROKER AT MAJOR JAPANESE BROKERAGE.

Hong Kong Market Report

HONG KONG, MAY 23, REUTER - HONG KONG STOCKS REBOUNDED SHARPLY IN MASSIVE VOLUME ON FAVOURABLE NEWS ABOUT THE UNREST IN CHINA AFTER PRICES PLUNGED ON MONDAY.

THE HANG SENG INDEX CLOSED 261.06 POINTS HIGHER AT 3,067.65. IT LOST 339.06 POINTS ON MONDAY TO 2,806.57.

BROKERS SAID REPORTS THAT ARMY UNITS HAD WITHDRAWN FROM PEKING AND THAT HARDLINE CHINESE PREMIER LI PENG WAS UNDER PRESSURE TO RESIGN SPARKED A BUYING SPREE BY LOCAL INVESTORS.

RUMOURS THAT LI WOULD RESIGN "DROVE THE MARKET CRAZY TO BUY," SAID A DEALER AT A MAJOR SECURITIES HOUSE. "IT LOOKED AS IF THE REFORMERS IN CHINA HAD THE UPPER HAND."

AMMAN

OPNG	CLSG
ALA-ADDIN COMPANY	---
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.	---
ARAB BANK	4.50 4.51
ARAB CHEMICAL DTR	---
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	---
ARAB INSURANCE	1.08 1.05
ARAB INT. INV. TRD.	0.64 0.67
ARAB INT. UNION INS	1.06 1.11
ARAB INTER. HOTELS	---
ARAB JOR/INVT/BK	2.35 2.30
ARAB PAPER CON/TRD	0.31 0.31
ARAB PHARMA. MANF.	---
ARAB PHARMA/CHEM	---
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.65 1.65
BANK OF JORDAN	---
BETT AL-MAL/BEITNA	1.10 1.08
BELOUT INSURANCE	1.00 0.95
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	31.00 30.00
CONFECT/CHOCOLATE	1.05 1.25
DAR AL SHAAB PRESS	---
DAR ALDAMA DV/INV.	---
DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.	---
FINANCE/CREDIT/COR	0.75 0.71
GARAGE OWNERS OFF	4.60 4.60
GENERAL INSURANCE	2.39 2.63
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.27 1.25
GENERAL MINING.	2.10 2.10
HIMEL MINERALS	0.75 0.75
HOLY LAND INS.	1.44 1.44
IND./MATER JEMCO	---
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPT	---
INDUSTRIAL INVEST.	0.75 0.75
INTERN. COM/INV	0.13 0.13
IRBID ELECTRICITY	0.90 0.90
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	0.64 0.64
ITERMED/PETRI/CH	---
J. TOUR-SR COMPLEX	0.79 0.80
JERUSALEM	1.26 1.29
JO TABACCO/CIGARET	---
JOR CERAMIC FACTOR	---
JOR EAGLE INS.	25.05 25.05
JOR ELECTRIC POWER	---

BA profits soar to record high

LONDON, May 23, (Reuters): British Airways said today profits last year soared to new heights despite public concern about air safety and earlier problems surrounding its merger with British Caledonian Airways.

Chairman Lord King called the 17.5 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £268 million (\$423 million) "first class."

Group revenues for the year to March 31 rose by more than £500 million (\$790 million) to £4.3 billion (\$6.8 billion).

"We are in the forefront of the world's most profitable airlines. These results are testimony to an excellent performance by our staff throughout the company in a period which has not been easy for British Airways or for the civil aviation industry in general," he told a news conference.

The company, which was privatised in 1987, bills itself as "the world's favourite airline." It is among the top non-communist airlines in terms of passengers carried.

Its £250-million (\$395 million) purchase in 1987 of British rival BACAL sealed its place as a super airline while bringing financial teething troubles.

King said today that many people had questioned the wisdom of the merger at first but BA had been proved right in this first full financial year since then.

"Today I am pleased to report that we benefit from its acquisition," he said. However, fears on the stock market about the strong dollar, which BA uses to pay for fuel and other costs, dragged its shares down 11 pence (17 cents) to £1.97 (\$3.11).

King reassured passengers about what he described as a great deal of public concern over air safety and security.

The past year saw a spate of accidents on various airlines and the bombing of a Pan American World Airways jumbo jet over Scotland which killed 270.

King said there was no evidence BA's traffic had suffered as a result and any fears by the public would be largely allayed if they saw the care that went into BA's fleet.

"If there are organisations that ever take safety and security for granted, then I can assure you that British Airways is not one of them," he said.

BA said passengers on scheduled services rose almost 12 per cent to some 22.6 million, partly due to more business class travel.

Nonetheless, BA is eyeing costs and hopes eventually to cut management staff in its core business by 10 per cent. Directors recommended a final dividend of 5.25 pence (8.3 cents) a share, raising the total payout to shareholders from 6.9 pence (11 cents) to 7.75 pence (12.25 cents).

Compaq unveils new computers

NEW YORK, May 23, (Reuters): Compaq Computer Corp. unveiled a new line of desktop computers today that are so powerful they will cut into sales of larger minicomputers, already facing a slump.

The announcement sharply boosted Compaq's share price and hurt other technology issues, including International Business Machines (IBM) and Digital Equipment Corp.

The three new Compaq machines are based on a souped-up version of Intel Corp's 80386 microprocessor that runs at a breakneck speed of 33 megahertz. Houston-based Compaq said the new models can crunch numbers up to 35 per cent faster than machines built around the older 25-megahertz 80386 chip.

The three models of the Desktop 386/33 are designed for data-intensive jobs like computer-aided design, financial modelling and software development. They are priced between \$10,000 and \$18,000.

Analysts said Compaq's new models represent an assault by relatively inexpensive desktops on terrain once held exclusively by the minicomputers of IBM and Digital, which sell in the \$100,000 range. Jobs that once needed a minicomputer can now be tackled by a personal computer or its high-power cousin, the engineering workstation.

This trend has played a big role in the slump plaguing the minicomputer industry, where many second-tier players — including Wang Laboratories Inc and Data General Corp — are on the ropes.

Compaq stock soared \$3.125 on the New York Stock Exchange to \$87.125, while IBM fell \$1.25 to \$109.875 a share. Digital's stock, meanwhile, lost \$1.50 to \$55.125 in heavy trading. Digital was also hurt by the announcement late on Friday that the company will freeze salaries beginning with its new fiscal year starting on July 2.

Wrangling continues over an economic package

Economic chaos scuttles Alfonsin's hopes

Argentina closes banks for fourth time this year

BUENOS AIRES, May 23, (Reuters): Argentina's economic chaos has scuttled the dreams of Raul Alfonsin to become the first elected President since 1952 to complete his term of office.

In Argentina's turbulent political history six presidents have been ousted by military coups this century.

After his radical party's election defeat at the hands of the Peronists on May 14 it now seems certain Alfonsin will step down before his six-year term ends on December 10.

Although wrangling continues over an emergency economic package and the exact date for President-elect Carlos Menem to take power, most politicians consider an early handover an established fact.

Alfonsin said on Sunday he was prepared to step down early "for the common good" while the Peronist Party issued a statement saying this was the only solution to the uncertainty afflicting the country.

"(An early handover) is the only way of preserving national unity and institutional order," the statement signed by several Peronist leaders said.

After Menem's landslide vic-

tory over radical candidate Eduardo Angeloz, Alfonsin said he would see his term out as determined by the constitution.

But it soon became clear that, against a background of economic crisis, the seven-month transition was too lengthy to sustain.

"I don't think the country will bear seven months with a break-down (civilian) power. There is a power vacuum because the formal holder of power (Alfonsin) does not use it and the one who will have power (Menem) does not assume it," leading jurist Julio Oyhanarte said yesterday.

Political experts see the seven-month transition period as the result of a failed radical strategy to win the elections.

In August last year, former Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille tried to head off a steady rise in the inflation rate with the "spring plan", a package of measures aimed at correct-

ing the economy through a loose price agreement with industry, a controlled exchange rate and cuts in the public sector deficit.

But economists condemned the plan as artificial and unrealistic. Senior economist at the Latin American economic research

foundation Enrique Szewach described it as being purely political in nature.

"It is aimed at giving a false impression of economic health ahead of the elections," Szewach told Reuters at the time it was launched.

Aware of the fragility of the plan the radicals brought the election date forward as much as possible to increase the likelihood of the package lasting until the country went to the polls.

For a while the plan appeared to work, bringing inflation to under 10 per cent a month and easing pressure on the austral currency by offering interest rates far above the rate of devaluation.

But, as Alfonsin said in a recent interview, "Three months ago the economy exploded in our hands."

When election day arrived the country was on the brink of hyper-inflation, the austral had plunged by 85 per cent in three

months and foreign bankers had cut off any fresh credit.

Political experts said, given the economic turmoil, it was a tribute to the political prestige of Alfonsin and Angeloz that the radical candidate managed to win 37 per cent of the vote.

When Alfonsin took office from a military dictatorship in December 1983 he inherited a country burdened with an enormous foreign debt, reeling from defeat in the Falklands war against Britain and divided as to

how to treat those responsible for the disappearance of 9,000 people in the military's "dirty war" against leftist guerrillas.

In a country where military coups are an ever-present alternative to an ailing government, Alfonsin's skills and consummate respect for the constitution — Angeloz once described him as "almost too much of a democrat" — gave the country its first presidential elections to be held under a democratic government for 37 years.

He said he wanted the new economic programme to have support of the Peronists, but Menem bluntly repudiated the government's latest plan as he arrived in

Buenos Aires yesterday from his native La Rioja province.

The latest plan calls for the re-imposition of exchange controls and increased export taxes.

"Justicialism (Peronism) hasn't given any kind of support to the plan at all, especially since they are talking about a new big raise in public utility rates and tax increases — all the things we always opposed," Menem said at a news conference at the Buenos Aires metropolitan airport.

The government has closed banks on four occasions in 1989 before announcing tax, exchange control, and wage packages.

But for Alfonsin, a 60-year-old lawyer who has devoted his life to the radical cause, his dreams of handing power to a radical successor on December 10 were robbed by what became his government's biggest challenge — the economy.

"I now feel thoroughly mortified. I would have liked to have come to the elections in a different economic situation. That would have changed things a lot," he said in an interview published in Gente magazine.

Protests spark business jitters

China's 'open-door trade policies are in danger'

TAIPEI, May 23, (Reuters): Mass protests in China have shaken Asian business confidence in the country, but while some businessmen fear a short-term crisis, few believe Beijing's open-door trade policies are in danger.

Political strife in Beijing has not yet hurt surging trade between China and its Asian neighbours, but nervous investors from Tokyo to Singapore are putting on hold plans to pump money into the Chinese economy, according to a survey by Reuters correspondents.

Events in China have highlighted the growing dependence on the China market of Asia's export-led economies and their concern with political stability in the country.

The economic threat is felt strongly in Japan. China's second largest trading partner after Hong Kong and the third biggest investor in the country after Hong Kong and the United States.

Japanese companies have been feeling the pinch of recent Chinese austerity measures aimed at combating inflation.

"We already thought trade would decline this year. Now the trend will worsen," said an official at Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

Taro Takiguchi, a researcher at the Japan external trade organisation, said upheavals in Beijing had "thrown cold water on investment in China."

The prosperity of Hong Kong has long been linked to the economy of China, soon to be its political overlord when Beijing resumes sovereignty in 1997.

But businessmen in the British colony have lived through far worse crises in their giant neighbour and have learned to take a long-term, pragmatic view.

"Frankly, anyone involved in the China trade has to be patient, and Hong Kong investors are not that impulsive. It would take something very, very drastic before they abandoned that market," said Mary Wong, head of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council's China section.

"If (Chinese Premier) Li Peng turned around and really crun-

ched up the students, then people will start wondering about the Chinese as reliable trading partners. But if anyone can weather the storm it's Hong Kong investors," an analyst said.

Less confident are businessmen in Taiwan, who have charged into the China market with an enthusiasm dubbed by local newspapers as "China fever" since the nationalist government related bans on indirect trade and investment in the mainland last year.

Many Taiwan businessmen have recently come to view China their economic saviour, a home for traditional industries forced off the island by a surging currency and rising wages.

"The pace of trade and investment growth from Taiwan to China will slow," said Lu Ming-jen, a professor of economics at National Chengchi University.

Two-way trade between Taiwan and China, mostly conducted through Hong Kong, jumped 80 per cent last year to \$2.72 billion.

Firms watch China unrest nervously

Companies set pullout plans

BEIJING, May 23, (Reuters): Many foreign companies in China have prepared evacuation plans for their staff as they nervously watch continued unrest and political instability, businessmen and diplomats said today.

"In order to keep my people happy and productive I've had to put a contingency plan in place to send all 20 of my expatriate staff and their families to Hong Kong or Manila if the situation gets dangerous," said the manager of a European company, who asked not to be named.

"There are company cars and drivers standing by 24 hours a day," he added.

"Absolutely there is concern. We have contingency plans... that's just normal prudent business," said Michael Strang, branch manager of IBM China Corporation.

Companies which have already evacuated staff because of weeks of pro-democracy protest and four days of martial law in Beijing have done it unobtrusively in order to protect future business prospects in China, diplomats said.

"I know of several companies which moved scheduled home leave for staff several months forward to get people out, but they still call it home leave," a diplomat said.

Other businesses, encouraged by the generally peaceful nature of demonstrations and the government response, are waiting to see future developments.

"We're keeping our eyes and ears open," said Ted Bell, vice-president and chief representative of Boeing China.

"No one feels threatened right now, but if anything were to happen it would be too late then. It's a real problem."

F. Fujino, manager of C. Itoh and Company's office in the capital, said he was not overly concerned about the situation.

"We have no plan to send staff back to Japan because nothing has happened," he said.

Trend-setting technology

New Mercedes-Benz SL has a dynamic appeal

THE convertibles from Mercedes-Benz have always set the standards for luxury sports cars. With the new SL, not only has this tradition been continued: a car has been created which is quite unique in the sum-total of its features and qualities.

On the one hand, the new convertible has a dynamic appeal comparable to that of the legendary 300 SL from the '50s; it incorporates an abundance of innovative engineering features allowing the previously conflicting criteria of sporty handling and ride comfort to be reconciled without compromise.

The new Mercedes-Benz convertibles, the 500 SL, 300 SL-24 and 300 SL with eight and six-cylinder engines developing 240 kW/326 hp, 170 kW/231 hp and 140 kW/190 hp respectively, offer a hitherto unequalled fascination of open driving in typical convertible style.

To make open driving both pleasurable and comfortable, the convertible is fitted with an elec-

tro-hydraulically operated soft top, in addition to the standard hard top.

At the push of a button, the soft top is opened and folded away under its cover or closed and locked within 30 seconds.

During this process, the side windows are retracted and subsequently return to their initial position. To ensure that even the open car meets Mercedes-Benz's exacting safety standards, a completely new, extendable roll-over bar was developed.

When retracted, it is flush with the soft top cover. When an electronic control unit registers a critical situation which might lead to a roll-over, the bar moves up within 0.3 seconds. It can also be extended at the push of a button.

The most significant contribution towards active safety is rendered by good handling and ride characteristics.

This requires first and foremost excellent suspension with precise yet shock-absorbing

wheel location elements.

For the new SL series, therefore, the proven combination of shock absorber strut independent front suspension and multi-link independent rear suspension has been retained.

A new feature, meeting even more exacting demands, is the adaptive damping system (ADS).

The proven acceleration skid control (ASR) and automatic locking differential (ASD) are also available for the new SL.

These electronically controlled and automatically operating systems relieve the driver from stress and thus improve handling and physiological safety as well as the ease of control.

At Mercedes-Benz, vehicle occupant protection is traditionally a matter of top priority. This philosophy, which has been applied in the design and production of several generations of cars, has led to the development of many safety features which

have created automotive history.

These include the anti-lock braking system (ABS) — a feature developed and introduced into production by Mercedes-Benz — in addition to the airbag and the seat-belt tensioner.

Mercedes-Benz is now also incorporating innovative safety technology into an open car, with features such as the raisable roll-over bar and the integral seat offering a high level of occupant protection.

The performance is in keeping with the convertible's claim to sports-car characteristics. Depending on the model and transmission version, the new SL accelerates from standstill to 100 km/h in between 6.2 and 9.3 seconds, its top speeds ranging from 23 to 250 km/h.

Another new feature is a screen which wards off unpleasant draught in open driving.

Waste merchants try new sales pitch

NAIROBI, May 23, (Reuters): Traders in potentially harmful wastes are trying a new sales pitch after the outcry over dumping of toxic and other hazardous waste in the Third World.

"It's a new fashion, a second generation of waste export," a top UN environmental expert, Jan Huisman, told Reuters.

"There is still quite a lot of effort going into waste disposal which is not exactly dumping, but which may turn out to be not very far from that," he said in a recent interview.

Huisman, who heads the Geneva-based International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals, was in Nairobi to attend a meeting of the governing council of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

He said developing countries were being approached with proposals to establish projects under which wastes supplied to them would, in theory, be recycled into saleable by-products or be converted into agents for development like energy.

Wastes included for example old sludges or filter cakes containing metal residues, or refuse from chemical and other industries which produce a variety of secondary materials like industrial salts.

He cited one proposal for a large-scale plant to burn waste to generate steam, and ultimately electricity for the national grid. This was proposed as a scheme which would enhance development and produce jobs for a country cutting back on oil imports because of economic problems.

"You only have to have a company come along and say — 'we're going to help you. All you have to do is accept 500,000 tonnes a year of a particular waste.' It sounds attractive if you can't buy oil," said Huisman.

He knew of no project of this type which had actually won the go-ahead yet.

But Guyana, for example, had seriously considered one designed to produce fuel before rejecting it, and Tunisia had been approached with one to reclaim salts, he said.

He understood Angola and Mozambique, among others, had also been sounded out on waste recycling.

In Africa alone, Nigeria, Benin and Guinea last year uncovered straightforward dumping or attempts to dump in their countries. Meantime there were reports that Angola, Djibouti, Mozambique, Somalia and lately Morocco, had been approached, Huisman said.

Morocco denied recent media reports that it was to allow Western companies to set up a toxic waste disposal plant in the Sahara desert. Huisman said the idea of recycling as much waste as possible was, in principle, sound but hardly appropriate in developing countries which lacked the technology required for proper waste management, maintenance and pollution control.

"Very frequently these proposals, as far as I have seen them, are very deficient in the way they describe how the plant will function, how it will be maintained, how staff will be trained. Hardly ever is there an adequate environmental impact assessment," he added.

And even if contracts should look in order, there are risks involved because there is no guarantee that once waste is delivered for recycling there will be a viable market for the by-product envisaged.

Huisman cited the example of used lubricating oil which is often recycled but for which by-product fetch only a small profit margin. If the market deteriorated suddenly it might no longer be worth recycling the waste, which by then would have been allowed to accumulate in a Third World country with little prospect of finding another home.

"Some people play that game. They are really speculating in this field," Huisman declared.

"All of a sudden you find waste in large quantities in completely the wrong place, and no-one is going to take care of it properly."

Huisman said he expected waste dumping would decline after 35 countries and the European Economic Community signed the Basle Convention in March on movement of hazardous materials, but it would be difficult to stamp out.

Mexicana Airline will be sold to private sector

MEXICO CITY, May 23, (AP): The state-owned Mexicana Airline will be sold to the private sector as part of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's programme to improve the nation's economy, the government announced.

The Treasury Department announced late Monday that the international bank would coordinate the sale.

The other government-owned airline, Aeromexico, was sold to a private consortium of Mexican investors late last year. Both airlines have domestic and international flights.

Aeromexico declared bankruptcy and had a four-day strike before it was sold. News reports about the government announcement did not indicate if Mexicana had financial troubles.

"The government" said both Mexican and foreign investors will be invited to submit bids for Mexicana, though foreigners will be limited to a minority role. The announcement is part of Salinas' plan for cutting inflation and reviving the nation's economy. Salinas has said in the past that he supports a move to sell many of the state-owned companies to the private sector to increase business competition.

If purchased by foreign investors, Mexicana would be the first sold to non-Mexican investors under new foreign investment regulations announced last week.

Commerce Secretary Jaime Serra Puche on May 15 announced new foreign investment regulations that open some sectors of the economy that have been sheltered by years of protectionism and increase the amount of foreign investment allowed in others.

The new rules open up previously closed areas such as auto parts, telecommunications, fishing and petrochemicals production to a maximum of 49 per cent foreign investment.

The Treasury Department on Monday said the sale of Mexicana will help modernise the country's air transportation industry and is "of fundamental importance for the future development of the national economy."



The design of the new Mercedes-Benz SL is the embodiment of the successful synthesis between classic elegance and an exciting dynamic appearance. The shape of the new convertible is not just the external shell for high-quality engineering, but the perfect synthesis of design with technology. The new SL has either a 6 or 8-cylinder engine with an output ranging from 140 kW/190 hp to 240 kW/326 hp.

Controversy still dogs the issue

The pill and breast cancer: what are the risks?

By Jenny Hope

THE advent of the pill almost 30 years ago was heralded as the dawn of an enlightened and liberated age for women. But the freedom it promised — and delivered — uniquely shaped the way our society developed for both sexes.

Women finally had a real choice about when and whether to have children; marriage and the first child could take a back seat to education and independent careers.

The widespread availability of the pill in most Western countries is inextricably linked with the growth in women's rights and equal opportunities which inevitably forced men to re-examine their roles and responsibilities.

That is why the latest revelations about a link between breast cancer and the pill are likely to make women — and men — stop and think. Is the price of freedom too

high — and have we received the final bill?

Smoking
The possibility that breast cancer might be caused by the use of oral contraceptives is a relatively new concern. It was only in 1981 that the first study suggested a link and since then a maze of conflicting evidence has been produced.

● Fears about the pill causing high blood pressure, thrombosis (formation of blood clots), heart attacks and strokes have clouded its universal acceptance.

● The largest pill study in the world, involving 23,000 users, concluded that the overall death rate due to diseases of circulation is about four times greater in women who have used the pill than in those who have never taken it.

● Further, it found that the pill makes smoking even more dangerous. It increases the risk of getting a circulatory disease and makes the attack more likely to be fatal.

● A report in the early Eight-

ies started a new scare: cervical cancer, followed last year by another new link between heart disease and the type of hormone used in the pill.

Because hormones affect the growth of some cancers, there has always been the possibility that the pill might be found to increase women's risk of developing disease.

But then, good news again. Several reports appeared to clear the pill of implication in causing breast cancer.

The latest study seems to establish a definite increase in risk for young women pill users of developing breast cancer before the age of 36. Controversy still dogs the issue, however, because there has not been a jump in the number of women either getting the disease or dying from it.

The research team claims that national cancer statistics are notoriously unreliable and their findings stand. But the UK government's chief medical officer, Sir Donald

Acheson, is unconvinced, and has told all Britain's doctors not to stop prescribing the pill.

A key result of last week's study is that new low-oestrogen dose pills are much safer than the old-style pills first tried out by British women in 1960. Then a woman would have swallowed in one day the same amount of oestrogen now taken over a 21-day period by a woman using a modern pill.

Breast cancer under the age of 36 is uncommon. About 650 women develop it each year, of which fewer than 200 die, compared with the annual breast cancer death toll of 15,000. The average risk of young women getting it is one in 500 and this rises to long-term (eight years or more) pill users.

This would still be a significant problem were it not for the fact that most women — 95 per cent — are on modern low-dose varieties with a much lower risk.

Given this formidable list

of existing risks, are the days of the pill numbered? Doctors don't believe so and point out that until last week its advantages outweighed the drawbacks.

First and foremost, it's incredibly effective at preventing pregnancy — a fact that tends to get overlooked — and, comparing death rates, it's about 10 times safer than having a baby. It also doesn't affect future fertility. The pill has still got a lot going for it.

Benefits
More minor benefits include its ability to modify mood, flattening out highs and lows, less anaemia and pelvic infection. Major plus points are protection against benign breast disease, fibroids in the womb and two kinds of cancer.

Ovarian cancer kills more women than any other gynaecological malignancy, and a three-fold reduction in risk after five years' pill taking may provide a lifelong benefit. Similar long-term protection has been found against

cancer of the lining of the womb.

However, Dr John Guillebaud, one of Britain's leading experts on the pill, believes the new study alerts the balance sheet. Doctors should now raise the issue with their patients.

"Women should be given information on which, as an individual, they can decide whether to start taking it, or carry on," he said.

He points out that we still don't have an answer to the burning question of whether an increased risk of breast cancer among young women becomes a ghastly legacy for the rest of life.

But, says Dr Guillebaud: "Nothing in this life is without risk — doing nothing about family planning can be risky, too."

The initial reaction from Britain's three million pill users to the latest bad news looks set to vindicate his judgement. The Family Planning Association's London centre had only two queries.



A plea for glitter by a woman who should know

Why diamonds are a girl's best friend

By Sally Burton

NO, diamonds are not a girl's best friend. That is the one thing they got wrong. A girl's best friends are not the gemstones, but the man — or men — who gives them to her.

The whole point of diamonds is having a wonderful man to give them to you — and, at the end of the day, to take them off you.

I should know, as someone who married the man famous for adorning his previous wife, Liz Taylor, with some of the most famous stones in the world. I find it depressing that today's women would apparently prefer their men to spend money on a new carpet or washing machine instead.

No matter how I try, I really do not think I'm going to be able to develop a latent passion for either. There is simply not enough romance involved and they do not last forever, which diamonds definitely do.

Blatant

Anita Loos was the first to say: "Kissing your hands may make you feel very, very good but a diamond and sapphire bracelet lasts forever," though some claim that a diamond and diamond bracelet has even more mileage.

Apparently older women consider expensive jewellery decadent. Well it is, and that is the blatant joy of it.

When worn by other people it is probably quite vulgar and ostentatious too. But when worn by yourself, believe me, it slips on a treat. No problem at all.

One friend who keeps in touch with how I was then and how I am now told me the other day that the one thing she remembers was that I always wore diamonds. She got quite carried away and said there were rows of them, which is a nice sentiment but not strictly true.

My training in this particular sport started when I was 21 and my wonderful grandmother (the indomitable Frederica Augusta, with definite leanings towards the grand — my resemblance to her has been noted on several occasions) gave me a glorious five stone diamond ring.

She had been given it by Great Aunt Selina, who once owned it in part payment of a debt, so it had a bit of family history attached to it, which made it all the more interesting. It is still in the family as my sister-in-law now wears it as her engagement ring.

You do have to get used to wearing big jewellery, though with a little application the adjustment need not take too long.

Richard nearly laughed himself to a standstill when I proudly showed him my very own diamond earrings bought out of my own money.

They were half a carat each and I was immensely proud of them. I used to be very conscious of the sun catching them and imagined its rays spilling out of my ears in myriad colours.

I could never understand why people did not notice. They're still around and perhaps one day they will be used as part of something else.

My first real insight into the extraordinarily tantalising world of diamonds took place in America.

Probably the busiest shop on Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles is Tiffany, and on Rodeo Drive it is Van Cleef and Arpels.

There are traffic lights right in front of both shops and a constant trail of people beating a path to their doors. In Beverly Hills you see the most amazing fingers gripping supermarket trolleys.

My second insight, when I



The Burton sparkle: Sally Burton and Liz Taylor display the gifts that any woman would just love to receive

learned that if a bit of history is involved in the acquisition it makes the stone that much more romantic, was at the sale of the Duchess of Windsor's collection — some of which was most definitely vulgar.

At the cocktail party which was given at the preview of the sale in Geneva, sophisticated men and women of the world, who had presumably been everywhere and seen everything, were elbowing each other out of the way to drool over the showcases.

There was no hesitation involved at all and prices rocketed in the saleroom and it was one of the most electric events to attend.

Especially when Japanese businessman Tsuneo Tacaghi made his final hesitant bid of £1.8 million for the 31.26 carat McLean diamond.

Of course, it would have been nice had there been a bit more emphasis placed on the fact that all the proceeds were going to benefit the Pasteur Institute, as the feeling of the night was definitely the almighty 'I want'. And a great many of them got.

One of those who did get was Elizabeth Taylor — and here I'm not being a bitch, just recalling events as they were reported at the time — who, after announcing that she had bought the Prince of Wales's diamond clip, claimed that it was the first time she had ever bought a piece of jewellery herself.

Now there's a girl who knows who her best friend really is.

The giant Cartier Burton diamond, which comes in at somewhere around 69 carat, was actually bought for her via a payphone from the Bell at Aston Clinton in Buckinghamshire.

Sandwiched between the lounge bar and the saloon, Richard negotiated for the ring while continually shoving money into the box.

"I don't care how much it is, go

and buy it," came ringing out in the famous Burton tones, while the rest of the patrons were quietly putting away their mild and bitter.

Richard loved to buy jewellery, particularly diamonds, and perhaps my most treasured piece is one he bought me just before he died in 1984. It is not the biggest or the brightest, but to my mind is probably the best.

It is a diamond cut in the shape of a figure '1' set in jet, which he gave me for our first wedding anniversary.

It is beautiful, but things might have got even more interesting had we been given the chance to

get into 'double figures. Imagine what a figure 25 would look like in diamonds.

So now I buy my own jewellery, though I'm quite open to receiving, and for me diamonds will never lose their sparkle. I adore them and I wear them. It would be pointless to lock them away and never enjoy them.

Essentially, one has to have fun. If in doubt, remember Mac West, who definitely had fun in the getting, the receiving, and the owning.

"Goodness, what beautiful diamonds", someone remarked. She replied: "Goodness had nothing to do with it, dearie."

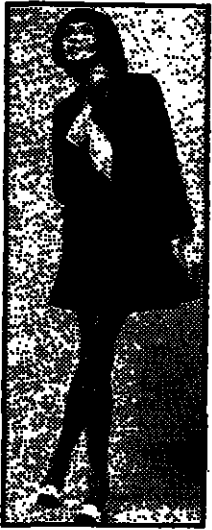
Shock waves in fashion world

By Michela Wrong

PARIS, (Reuter): Christian Dior's abrupt dismissal of veteran designer, Marc Bohan has sent shock waves through the French fashion world, where other ageing designers are being ruthlessly assessed by ambitious financial backers.

In replacing Bohan who had been with the firm since 1960, with the young Italian Gianfranco Ferré, Dior management made clear that competitive commercial business could be no respecters of names.

"Everyone knows that 65 is the age of retirement," commented Robert Mouclier, president of the Chambre Syndicate de la Haute Couture, the body which hosts the Paris collections.



1969: Bohan jacket and skirt



1972: trouser suit and straw hat and checker outfit



1987: recreating the 1947 New Look



1988: pinstripe with mink

"Designers who are in their sixties are going to have to deal with the problem of who will take over the reins," he said.

Bohan, 62, was admired for the restrained chic he gave his collections. His strong point was the individually-tailored Haute Couture, bought by a tiny elite of wealthy women.

In contrast Ferré, nearly 20 years his junior, is seen as an essentially ready-to-wear designer whose more moderately priced clothes will be accessible to a wider market.

The decision to drop Bohan was taken by 36-year-old managing director Beatrice Bongibault, recruited to Dior last summer by Bernard Arnault, the energetic young chairman of French luxury goods group LVMH, which owns Dior.

With Bohan gone, attention is now focussed on other world

famous names like Pierre Cardin, Hubert de Givenchy, Louis Feraud, Erik Mortensen and Philippe Venet — all in their sixties — and the admired Madame Gres, a frail octogenarian.

Givenchy, whose fashion house was bought out by LVMH last autumn, might be the next possible victim. Unlike Bohan, however, the 62-year-old designer has a fashion line bearing his name, a point LVMH will be sensitive to.

Japanese business group Yagai Tsusho Ltd, which bought the Madame Gres fashion house earlier this year, is known to be looking for a successor for its 85-year-old founder.

According to press reports, Britain's Midland Bank, which bought a share of independent fashion house Lanvin this spring, is also scouting for fresh talent — although Maryll Lanvin is still

comparatively young. Moulcier cited Claude Montana, Thierry Mugler and Christian Lacroix — French stylists still in their 40s, whose innovative ideas are at the cutting edge of fashion — as likely successors to the older generation of designers.

He pointed to the example of West German designer Karl Lagerfeld, who has transformed the traditional fashion house Chanel while simultaneously designing under his own name.

Lagerfeld's experience at Chanel is the direction the future is going to take," Moulcier said.

The Guy Laroche fashion house has already followed suit after the death of its founder in February. Italian designer Angelo Tiarazzi is now in charge of Haute Couture while continuing to market clothes under his own label.

A new approach to skin fatigue

YVES Saint Laurent has created a new experience in skin care called Serum Vitalisant. It is an extremely intensive anti-fatigue treatment with powerful moisturising and skin-strengthening properties.

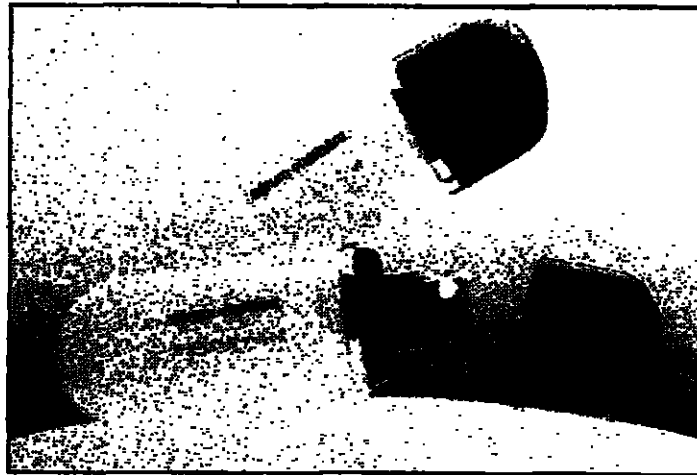
Serum Vitalisant is part of the Soins Extremes range of Yves Saint Laurent Skin care products, an intensive treatment product range which has been rigorously tested by some of the world's most renowned dermatologists.

The Serum Vitalisant programme involves regular morning and night use for a minimum of fifteen consecutive days. Instantly your skin recovers vitality, transparency and radiance. After fifteen days the skin is restructured. It feels firmer and more supple. It softens wrinkles and erases fine lines.

Serum Vitalisant can be applied underneath Enriched Cream or Enriched Fluid for even greater efficiency. Or it can be used alone on eye and lip contours to erase fine lines and to help prevent new ones from forming.

And Serum Vitalisant can be used any time your skin shows signs of fatigue and stress. Used under make-up, it increases its radiance and staying power.

It comes in a pearly plastic tube with a pump dispenser which allows



Serum Vitalisant, a new product by Yves St Laurent.

the user to measure out just the right amount for her needs. It is closed by a black cap, decorated with a fine golden line. Its 15 ml contents allow for approximately forty applications.

Meanwhile Yves Saint Laurent have given their highly successful Soins Majes line a dynamic face-lift. The range is now improved and repackaged to provide an extremely innovative range of basic skin care products.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

MALE INFERTILITY ACCOUNTS FOR ONE-THIRD OF CASES

QUESTION: We've tried unsuccessfully to have a child for three years now. I have gone through all the tests, and now my husband realizes that he, too, must be tested. What are the chances that the problem may be with him, and how will they discover it?

ANSWER: Infertility affects 15 per cent of marriages, and studies estimate that a "male factor" is responsible in one-third of these cases. Through careful, sympathetic evaluation, the underlying causes can often be pinpointed and corrected, leading to successful pregnancy for many of these couples.

First, the doctor must gather a complete sexual history of the couple, noting any factors that may affect or inhibit pregnancy, such as the frequency of sex and its timing in relation to the menstrual cycle. Lubricants, douches or other substances used in conjunction with sex may have a spermicidal effect and be preventing the sperm from reaching the uterus.

One factor that reduces fertility in the male is cryptorchidism — in childhood, the failure of one or both of the testes to descend into the scrotum. If this condition remains uncorrected

past the age of 5, irreversible changes take place in the testes that reduce their fertility. Mumps orchitis, an inflammation of the testes, also negatively affects their reproductive ability; if both are infected, sterility may result.

Miscellaneous infections, emotional or physical stress, certain medications and even the treatment of hernias can impair fertility. To get the complete picture, it's necessary for the doctor to examine the genitals for any physical abnormalities in the structure of the penis or the scrotum.

Analysis of the semen itself yields the most important data regarding fertility. Since semen takes 75 days to develop, at least two samples should be taken at two-to-three-week intervals. The various characteristics of semen (volume, shape and degree of sperm movement) can vary tremendously between samples. Semen volume in an ejaculation is usually between 1 1/2 and 5 milliliters, while the density of spermatozoa present should be above 20 million per milliliter. Their degree of movement, or motility should be active in at

least 60 per cent of sperm observed under a microscope within two to three hours of the sample being taken.

Oval sperm heads are considered normal in such an evaluation; large, small, tapering, duplicated and amorphous heads may also be present. Fertile semen contains 10 per cent normal, and between 60 per cent and 70 per cent normal forms.

These tests may reveal the presence of azoospermia — a deformation in the testes preventing the creation of healthy sperm, while patients testing abnormal in all these characteristics are likely to have varicocele — a collection of dilated veins in the spermatic cord, the most responsive to surgery.

Hormones are less likely to play a role in infertility, but can be tested if semen analysis fails to yield answers. A biopsy of testicular tissue is reserved for isolated cases.

In unraveling these questions, emotional support from the spouse and physician is critical in resolving the psychological and physical stress resulting from infertility.

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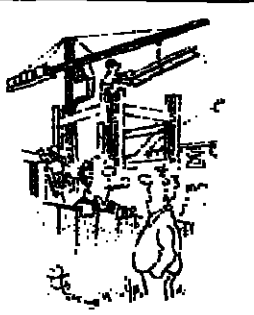
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HOUSEHOLD goods for sale. cheap. Owner leaving Kuwait. Tel. 2618407.

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KAWAI piano, black, in perfect condition, KD400. Atari computer 130 XE (130KB) parallel printer interface, two disk drives NTSC monitor, with many original programmes, KD200. Tel. 5725211.

WINDSURFER — surf partner, new, length 315 cms, KD50. Tel. 3717894.

POSH seaview CAC apartment near the Kuwait International Hotel, swimming pool/tennis court. Rent KD500 pm. Excellent furniture, appliances, carpets, total, KD1,500 or can be sold individually. Tel. 2540759.

Furniture
IKEA furniture for quick sale, king size bed, cupboard, 3 seater sofa, 2 chairs, white bunk bed and bookshelf. Tel. 3724840, after 5 pm.

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SIAMESE kittens, female, box trained and beautiful, 6 weeks old, KD30. Tel. 5314706, after 4 pm.

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SPORTS

Magee set to return in W. Germany

MELBOURNE, May 23, (Reuters): Australian Kevin Magee will rejoin the motorcycling Grand Prix circuit in West Germany this weekend six weeks after breaking his left leg and ankle.

Magee was injured during a victory lap at the finish of the US Grand Prix on April 16 when American Bubba Shobert smashed into the back of his Yamaha causing both riders to fall heavily.

Australia's 1987 world champion Wayne Gardner crashed in the same race, also breaking a leg.

Magee, who underwent surgery in the US last Friday to remove a screw from his leg, said today he was unsure if he would ride in the race at Hockenheim but he would ride in practice.

"Over the past week I have been able to walk around without crutches and the ankle has full movement," Magee told journalists. "The muscle and knee ligament damage is what has slowed down my progress back to the track."

Gardner is not expected to rejoin his Honda team until the Dutch Grand Prix next month.

Maradona raps Italian soccer internationals

TERNI, Italy, May 23, (Reuters): Diego Maradona was furious when only one Italian soccer international appeared for a charity match against Argentina yesterday.

The Argentine captain, who delayed a trip to Buenos Aires to see his new-born daughter for the first time in order to play, was angry that the Italians decided to rest from Sunday's League games instead of helping a good cause.

"They've shown the have no heart," Maradona said after his team won 7-2 against opposition drawn mostly from the Italian Third Division. "Tired? We are just as much as them."

Stefano Tacconi, the Juventus international goalkeeper, who helped to organise the game, was equally upset. "It's an embarrassment. We've made real fools of ourselves," he said.

"The Argentines came from far away. Maradona delayed his return to Buenos Aires to see his daughter. Instead, my Italian colleagues, a day after championship play, preferred to skip it," he added.

Maguila wins

BLUMENAU, Brazil, May 23, (Reuters): Brazil's South American heavyweight champion Adilson "Maguila" Rodrigues scored a unanimous decision over American Mike Rouse yesterday to move closer to a possible shot at world champion Mike Tyson.

McEnroe pulls out of French Open, Mancini seeded 11th

PARIS, May 23, (Reuters): Former world number one John McEnroe, the beaten finalist in 1984, has pulled out of the French Open tennis championships starting on Monday because of back problems.

Officials of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) said today McEnroe, currently ranked seventh, had not recovered from the pains that kept him out of the Italian Open last week.

McEnroe, 30, who has won Wimbledon three times and collected four

US Open titles, has never won the French Open, the major clay-court championship.

He lost to Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia in the 1984 final after he won the first two sets and Swede Mats Wilander beat him in the semifinals the following year. In 1988 he reached the last 16.

American Martina Navratilova, the world's second-ranked woman player, pulled out of the French Open last month, indicating she wanted more

practice on grass before Wimbledon rather than play on the Roland Garros clay courts in Paris.

Rising star Alberto Mancini of Argentina, who beat American Andre Agassi to win the Italian Open on Sunday, has been seeded 11th in the men's singles.

This reflects the latest ATP rankings which have Mancini in 13th place. He moves up two places for the French Open because of the absence of McEnroe and injured Austrian Thomas Muster.

Lendl, French Open champion in 1984, 1986 and 1987 and Boris Becker of West Germany are seeded one and two in accordance with the rankings.

Becker, the former Wimbledon champion, is a fast-court specialist but has been working hard this year to adapt his game to the demands of clay.

World number one Steffi Graf of West Germany is top seed in the women's event. She has not lost a grand slam singles match since being beaten

by Navratilova in the 1987 US Open final.

Argentine Gabriela Sabatini, the only player to beat Graf this year but overwhelmed by her in the West German Open final last weekend, is seeded second.

Yesterday, a computer mix-up delayed the announcement of seedings by 24 hours, organisers said.

The weekly men's singles world computer rankings issued by ATP were wrong and had to be corrected.

Swedes blank Czechs

Edberg vows to gamble in Paris



Edberg: fought back to beat Mecir

DUESSELDORF, West Germany, May 23, (Reuters): Wimbledon champion Stefan Edberg used his attacking serve-and-volley game for a storming victory at the World Team Cup yesterday and vowed to gamble with the same tactics at next week's French Open.

The world number three powered his way back from one set down to beat Olympic champion Miloslav Mecir 2-6 6-3 6-4 and secure Sweden a 3-0 victory over Czechoslovakia in the first round of group matches in the round-robin event.

Argentina beat Australia 2-1 in the other Group One tie.

While other serve-and-volley specialists such as Boris Becker are disciplining themselves to stay at the back of the court and play a cautious game in preparation for the slow clay of Paris, Edberg is ready to throw caution to the wind at the second Grand Slam tournament of the year.

"I'm not going to stay back in Paris. I'm playing my normal serve-and-volley game," he said. "There is no point in changing too much. I'm still going to get forward to the net."

The Swede, who has said he would be delighted if all Grand

Prix tournaments were switched to his favourite fast grass, needed one hour 55 minutes to overcome Mecir, who is still battling back after injury.

"I don't feel 100 per cent fit after this layoff with my back problems. I need a lot more matches to get fit," the Czechoslovak said.

Two-year contract signed

Beenhakker joins Ajax

AMSTERDAM, May 23, (Reuters): Leo Beenhakker signed a two-year contract as manager of Ajax Amsterdam yesterday and made returning the club to the top of European soccer his priority.

"Surviving just a round or two in European competitions is not good enough," said Beenhakker, who is back at Ajax after three seasons at Real Madrid. "We want to get back onto that European platform."

And he rejected charges in the Spanish press he had moved back to Ajax for a rest.

"If I wanted to have a quiet job, I would have taken the offer to become technical director at Real," he said.

"In Spain there is enormous

hysteria about soccer and we were travelling five days a week. I had enough of that. Here there is no hysteria, you just have to deliver good soccer."

Although Real look set to win their third successive Spanish League title, Beenhakker and the club agreed to part after they suffered a crushing 5-0 European Cup semifinal defeat at the hands of AC Milan.

In their heyday in the 1960s and 1970s, the Ajax of legends Johan Cruyff, Johan Neeskens and Piet Keizer won the European Cup three times and the World Club Championship in 1972.

But apart from victory in 1987 in what was widely regarded as one of the easiest European Cup Winners' Cup tournaments in

many years, success has eluded Ajax — and declining numbers of fans in the stands have put a squeeze on club finances.

With cash still in short supply Beenhakker acknowledged Ajax would have to rely on home-bred young talent rather than on expensive acquisitions to get back to the top of European competition.

"Ajax have long been the nursery of European soccer," he said, citing the departure to foreign teams of world class striker Marco van Basten and libero Frank Rijkaard, and of other home-bred players such as Sonny Silooy and Rob Witschge.

"At Ajax, I do not have to build a new team. There is a lot of talent available," Beenhakker said.

Life ban on S. African rebels lifted

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, May 23, (Reuters): The West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WICBC) yesterday lifted the life ban on players who took part in rebel tours of South Africa.

The board said in a statement it had been agreed at a weekend meeting that the players could apply for reinstatement to play in regional matches in West Indies.

The announcement follows the board's decision to fall in line with the International Cricket Conference (ICC) resolution in January which stipulated international bans of up to five years for players who coached or played in South Africa after April 1 this year.

"West Indies players who have had sporting contact with South Africa prior to March 31, 1989, can now apply for reinstatement to be eligible for participation in matches played under the auspices of the WICBC," the board said in the statement.

It added it would announce "in due course" new regulations to deal with players who went to South Africa after April 1.

Altogether 24 players were suspended from all first class cricket in the islands for their involvement in rebel tours to South Africa in 1983 and 1984.

Most have subsequently given up the game and only Barbadian all-rounder Franklin Stephenson, who now plays for English county team Nottinghamshire, can realistically be regarded as being in contention for a place in West Indies Test squad.

Foster strikes to give Essex 116-run victory

LONDON, May 23, (Reuters): England paceman Neil Foster rocked Gloucestershire with a devastating spell of four for 18 to give County Cricket Championship leaders Essex a comprehensive win with a day remaining in their three-day match yesterday.

Set to make 207 to win, Gloucestershire were bundled out for a meagre 90, just 10 more runs than they had managed in their first innings.

Foster ended with match figures of eight for 49 and Don Topley seven for 67 as Essex won by 116 runs on the Bristol pitch which was a seamer's delight throughout.

Derbyshire notched their first win of the season by crushing Kent by eight wickets on the third and final day of their match at Dartford.

However the Kent tailenders put up some spirited late resistance after they resumed at 185 for six with opener Simon Hinks sidelined by injury and still needing 21 to avoid an innings defeat.

Chris Penn completed a half century off 59 balls before he was dismissed for 60 and Danny Kelleher made a career-best unbeaten 53.

But although they lost Kim Barnett cheaply, Derbyshire made light work of knocking off the 87 they needed to win.

Nottinghamshire paceman Andy Pick produced a devastating three-wicket burst in five deliveries to end Hampshire's victory hopes and have them clinging on for a draw at Trent Bridge.

Needing 246 to win, Hamp-



Neil Foster

shire settled for a draw after losing their middle order to pick and opener Paul Terry who batted throughout the innings for an unbeaten 82 was content to block the final overs.



Australian batsman David Boon (right) has a word with umpire Dickie Bird. (Reuters wirephoto)

Aussies scrape victory

LONDON, May 23, (Reuters): Paceman Angus Fraser jolted Australia with a fiery spell of four for 12 before the visitors scraped victory with only three wickets and three balls to spare against Middlesex yesterday.

Set 240 to win after Geoff Lawson had bowled superbly to take five for 48 as Middlesex were dismissed for 227 by lunch on the third and final day, captain Allan Border and David Boon quickly put Australia in sight of victory.

Coming together after Mike Veletta was leg before to Norman Cowans for seven, the pair lashed 146 in 38 overs for the second wicket.

Boon made 86 and Border 77 but both were then bowled by

Fraser as Australia lost five wickets in the space of 38 runs.

Mark Taylor and Geoff Marsh steadied the innings and although Taylor was stumped for 24 after the pair had added 33, Lawson fittingly edged the third ball of the final over to the boundary for the winning runs.

Lawson had earlier set up Australia's win with a magnificent spell of three for five in 23 deliveries in the morning session after Middlesex resumed their second innings at 157 for three.

Among his victims was England Test batsman Mike Gatting who added only one to his overnight 78 before Lawson knocked back his off-stump.

Steaua unworried by Milan or their fans

BARCELONA, May 23, (Reuters): Steaua Bucharest, bolstered by the inclusion of six of their 1986 winning team, will not lack confidence when they meet favourites AC Milan in tomorrow's European Cup final.

Having gone 94 matches without defeat during the last three Romanian League seasons since beating Barcelona on penalties to lift the European Cup in Seville, they have built a formidable team spirit and will be untroubled by the 80,000 Italians who are expected here in support of their opponents.

"We all know we shall be playing against a great and very strong rival team," said Steaua coach Anghel Iordanescu. "But that does not worry us."

The circumstances — Milan's 80,000 fans will comprehensively outnumber the 200

Romanians expected to support Steaua at the Nou Camp stadium — do not bother Iordanescu and his players either.

"Steaua have played abroad many times and my players are used to playing in such an atmosphere. We are not alarmed at all."

A strike by workers at Spain's state-run television could black out coverage of the final, a television spokesman said today.

Iordanescu, who joined his players on a rapid tourists' visit to the city of Barcelona this morning, believes the experience of his six Seville veterans — defenders Stefan Iovan and Adrian Bumbescu, midfielders Lucian Balan and Gavril Balint and strikers Marius Lacatus and Victor Piturca — will be vital in a

closely-fought match.

Steaua's preparations have also been thorough. They arrived in Catalonia yesterday and are staying in a semi-rural retreat some 20 kms outside the city.

This evening they planned to train at the Nou Camp stadium at the same time as the match is scheduled to kick-off tomorrow.

Milan, by contrast, were not expected to arrive in Barcelona until this evening, will stay in a city-centre hotel and plan only to visit the stadium to see the pitch under floodlights, following Steaua's training session.

But, with their majestic Dutch inspiration Ruud Gullit having passed himself fit, they can call upon all three of their Dutchmen for what promises to be a classic final between two well-organised.

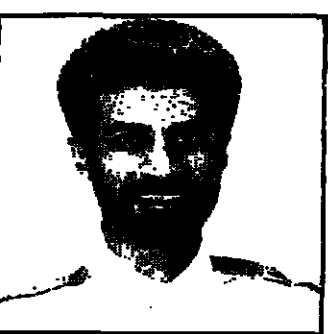
Sulayem faces difficult test

LJUBLJANA, Middle East champion Mohammed bin Sulayem faces one of the sternest tests of his career in the European Championship Saturday which will be contested by a massive entry of 130 drivers on Friday and Saturday.

The UAE star arrived in Yugoslavia knowing competition would be tough, but even he was surprised to discover the extent of the opposition that he will be up against in his Winston Toyota Celica GT-4.

With roaring engines breaking the peace of Crni Vrh, now resting after its exertions as a winter skiing resort, Sulayem will be second away from the starting ramp just after 3pm local time on Friday.

He will, however, have to contend with an army of Lancia Deltas, Renault GT Turbos, BMW M3s and Sierra Cosworths, and the odds are stacked heavily



Bin Sulayem

against him matching his best European performance to date — an impressive second place in last year's Gunaydin Rally in Turkey.

Defending champions Franz Wittmann and Joerg Pattermann from Austria, heading the formidable challenge here of the Lancia Rally Team, will be flagged away first.

Following them — and Sulayem — in quick succession, come three more of the mighty Group A Lancia Delta HG Integras that are feared throughout the World and European Championship circuits. They are being driven by Italian Alessandro Paoli, Yugoslavian hope Tihomir Filipovic and Sakari Vierimaa of Finland.

Accompanied by his regular Irish co-driver, Ronan Morgan and competing in Yugoslavia for the first time, Sulayem knows he is at a disadvantage to the Europeans for whom the route — and the conditions — are very familiar.

"This is always the case when I drive in Europe," said the Winston Toyota driver. "But by competing in more and more rallies over here I will gain valuable experience and learn new driving techniques which should make me a better all-round driver."

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The UAE star arrived in Yugoslavia knowing competition would be tough, but even he was surprised to discover the extent of the opposition that he will be up against in his Winston Toyota Celica GT-4.

With roaring engines breaking the peace of Crni Vrh, now resting after its exertions as a winter skiing resort, Sulayem will be second away from the starting ramp just after 3pm local time on Friday.

He will, however, have to contend with an army of Lancia Deltas, Renault GT Turbos, BMW M3s and Sierra Cosworths, and the odds are stacked heavily



Bin Sulayem

against him matching his best European performance to date — an impressive second place in last year's Gunaydin Rally in Turkey.

Defending champions Franz Wittmann and Joerg Pattermann from Austria, heading the formidable challenge here of the Lancia Rally Team, will be flagged away first.

Following them — and Sulayem — in quick succession, come three more of the mighty Group A Lancia Delta HG Integras that are feared throughout the World and European Championship circuits. They are being driven by Italian Alessandro Paoli, Yugoslavian hope Tihomir Filipovic and Sakari Vierimaa of Finland.

Accompanied by his regular Irish co-driver, Ronan Morgan and competing in Yugoslavia for the first time, Sulayem knows he is at a disadvantage to the Europeans for whom the route — and the conditions — are very familiar.

"This is always the case when I drive in Europe," said the Winston Toyota driver. "But by competing in more and more rallies over here I will gain valuable experience and learn new driving techniques which should make me a better all-round driver."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Sex discrimination

BLACKPOOL, England, May 23, (AP): A women soccer club director claimed victory yesterday in a sex discrimination dispute after she was refused entry to a rival boardroom's drinks by Irish Minister of State, a director of English Third Division club Blackpool, received a letter from lawyers acting for Fourth Division Tranmere Rovers admitting they had broken the law.

Soccer fans

PRESTON, England, May 23, (Reuters): Hundreds of soccer fans flooded on to the pitch and stopped an English Third Division match between Preston and Port Vale yesterday. Spectators climbed over perimeter fencing and others poured through access gates after a small fire broke out. There were no injuries.

Higgins fined

LONDON, May 23, (Reuters): Double world snooker champion Alex Higgins has been fined £500 (\$785) for being rude and abusive at last year's Irish Masters, bringing his total career fines to £19,200 (\$30,144).

Rugby players

LONDON, May 23, (Reuters): England's Commonwealth Games Council has written to the English Rugby Union asking them to rethink their decision to pass on to players invitations from the South African Rugby Board (SARB).

Cup qualifier

FRANKFURT, West Germany, May 23, (Reuters): Libero Klaus Augenthaler was again injured yesterday for the World Cup soccer qualifier against Wales on May 31 despite continued doubts about his fitness.

Enzo Scifo

BRUSSELS, May 23, (Reuters): Midfielder Enzo Scifo, absent from the Belgian team in last month's 2-1 World Cup qualifying win over Czechoslovakia, was named yesterday in a 17-strong squad for Saturday's opener friendly against Yugoslavia in Brussels.

Women's tennis

EASTBOURNE, England, May 23, (UPI): Martina Navratilova heads the draw for the \$300,000 Eastbourne Women's Grass Court Tennis Tournament June 19-24, one of the main events in the build-up to Wimbledon, organisers said yesterday.

Geneva Open

GENEVA, May 23, (AP): Fifth seed Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany was upset by unseeded American Camille Benjamin 6-2, 6-2 in the first round of the \$100,000 Geneva European Open women's tennis tournament yesterday.

Gomez triumphs

FLORENCE, Italy, May 23, (AP): Top-seeded Andres Gomez of Ecuador breezed past West Germany's Torsten Meinenke 6-2, 7-5 yesterday in their first round match in the \$126,400 City of Florence tournament.

Austrian driver

MARANELLO, Italy, May 23, (Reuters): Austrian Gerhard Berger will definitely drive in the Mexico Grand Prix motor race on Sunday just a month after his Ferrari crashed in flames at San Marino.

Cup matches

SEOUL, South Korea, May 23, (AP): Malaysia blanked Nepal 2-0 and South Korea thrashed Singapore 3-0 today in the opening matches of the East Asia Group 4 qualifying rounds for the 1990 World Cup soccer championship.

Overall leader

MT ETNA, Sicily, May 23, (AP): Portugal's Acacio da Silva yesterday captured the pink jersey of overall leader by winning a tough second stage of the Italian Cycling tour ahead of Colombian Luis Herrera and Swiss Tony Hominger.

Hextall suspended

NEW YORK, May 23, (Reuters): Philadelphia Flyers' goaltender Ron Hextall has been suspended for the first 12 games of next season for a deliberate attempt to injure a Montreal player, the National Hockey League (NHL) announced yesterday.

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